

The New Tillsonburg Library:
A Scrapbook History

24 February 1971

Considerable discussion evolved around methods for providing additional library space. It was pointed out to the Board that the present building is in urgent need of extensive repairs such as: Heating Plant, Roof, Wiring, plumbing and painting. The merit of such extensive repairs was questioned in view of the functional obsolescence of the building and the need for expansion.

It was the unanimous opinion of the Board renovation and expansion of the present building should not be entertained and that the only course of action that should be taken is for the replacement with a modern and efficient structure.

The Budget for the year 1971 was considered, and it was the opinion of the Board that a Capital levy of \$8500.00 should be included.

It was Moved by Mrs. Ort

Seconded by Mrs. Gibson that the Budget as prepared for the year 1971 in the amount of \$31,175.00 including an amount of \$1041.28 being deficit for 1970 and \$8500.00 for Capital levy be adopted.

Resolved further that a request be made to the Council for tentative approval and arrangements for Capital expenditure for Library facilities to the approximate cost of \$85,000.00.

Chairman Armstrong called for the Election of Officers for 1971.

Moved by Mrs. Gibson and Seconded by Mr. McKenna that J. Armstrong be appointed Chairman of the Board.


Moved by Mrs. Ort,

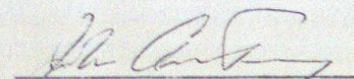
Seconded by Mr. McKenna that Mrs. Gibson be appointed Vice Chairman.

Moved by Mrs. Ort,

Seconded by Mr. McKenna that K. Holland be appointed Sec'y Treas.

Meeting adjourned.


Secretary


Chairman

14 June 1972

Hope for New Library

By Paul Knowles

Tillsonburg will have a new public library facility "within three years at the outside, I would hope," says library board chairman John Armstrong. The idea of a new library has been kicking around for quite a while, but it promises to become a reality shortly after the Community Centre Complex is completed.

Mr. Armstrong stresses that "nothing is yet firm" in regard to a new facility. He emphasized that "We don't want anything to interfere with the success of the Community Centre." John

Armstrong is also a town councillor.

He did say, however, that "in a sense we have the acceptance of council." The library budget from town council has included, in the last two years, \$8500 designated as a building fund. Which means that, at this present time, there is \$17,000 available for a new facility.

The library board, says Mr. Armstrong, "has taken a new library as a major consideration...all board members feel committed to a new library in the foreseeable future."

Mr. Armstrong told The

News that "We feel that we've reached capacity in the present structure."

Another library board member is John McKenna, who will probably become the fund-raising chairman for the new building, although nothing will be done in this department for several months. He pointed out, in agreement with Mr. Armstrong, that "we are in desperate need" of a new library building.

The man that is probably in the best situation to assess the need for a new building is the town's head librarian, Matt Scholtz. He prepared

some facts and figures for The News that point to widespread use of the library by area residents. At the present time, there are 3,769 members of the library, 2,466 adult, and 1,303 juvenile. There are well over 16,000 books.

One of the key figures is that circulation in 1971 was 54,737, up about 1000 over the previous year.

Mr. Scholtz points out that "Approximately 10 new books are added to the collection weekly. Translated into bookshelf terms, this means that one good sized (9 foot long, double faced) shelf

within Three Years

would have to be added to the library every year. At this rate, within four years, there would be standing room only in the Library, since all available space would have been consumed with bookshelves."

The total floor space in the facility is presently 2,005 square feet, less than half the Canadian Library standard of 4,900 square feet.

As well, the reading space in the library is very low.

The building itself is sadly in need of repairs, points out the librarian. The roof is gradually deteriorating, the base of the front pillars is

crumbling, and the floor is wearing away. As well, the washrooms need repairs, but parts are no longer available, the front door needs replacing, and the heating system is inadequate.

Some of the poor features of the present facility have caused injury to patrons. The heaviness of the front door caused an injury to a lady that resulted in a six-month stay in the hospital, with a broken hip. The stairs leading to the juvenile department sometimes result in injury to children. The front steps, in winter, tend to become icy, a problem very difficult to

combat, and a very real danger to senior citizens or infirm users of the library.

As well, the library, which many say should be the cultural centre of the town, now can only adequately house books. It should, feel all involved, have facilities for meeting rooms, film showings, and also should house back issues of newspapers, and other periodicals, none of which are now possible.

But within three years, as the library board chairman says, perhaps these problems will be answered with a new Tillsonburg Public Library.

STEVENS
SKINNER
architects

March 18, 1971

Tillsonburg Library Board
c/o Mr. Ken Holland, Secretary
Town Hall
Tillsonburg, Ontario

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge the opportunity to have met with the members of the Library Board yesterday in connection with the discussions concerning your Library facilities in Tillsonburg. I thought it would be logical to briefly record the possibilities discussed with some minimal comments in the interim period before I am able to review the situation more thoroughly with you upon my return after the school vacation period.

Alternative Possibilities

- (a) Required repairs and maintenance items necessary to properly restore the existing building to required standards - generally, I understand this involves roofing, heating system, wiring and other possible items of this nature which are legitimate maintenance to the existing premises.
- (b) The proposed expansion to the building for additional facilities - this would necessitate adding floor area to the rear of the building, likely two levels with the purpose of increasing both sections of the Library function. This, in my opinion, appears to be quite a questionable possibility due mainly to the real effect and function that could be gained in the operation of the building, and the rather unwieldy and unpractical solution of the facilities by the addition in this location and also, of course, the necessary requirements of new installation of heating system, power requirements, etc. Together with this possibility might be consideration of internal renovations as discussed, which also appear to me to be rather impractical to the expense involved of major changes to the existing building in such consideration.

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Tillsonburg Library Board
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March 18, 1971

- (c) Proposed new building - this choice, of course, can be considered for two possibilities, i.e. removal of existing structure and erection of new building, or construction of new building on possible alternate site. In this regard, of course, I realize that an alternate site appears, at the moment, to require serious deliberation, and in fact, also, in accordance with our discussion, the reaction of removing the existing building to make way for a new one also may meet with mixed public reaction.

On further review of these problems on my return home, I do believe that new facilities incorporating the areas discussed could be designed and planned to produce a workable and acceptable building within the confines of the site dimensions, and there are probably considerable logical preferences to maintain the Library building on the main street with the desirable access and features that a new building could have on the same site.

To summarize, in my opinion, in consideration of the present operational problems and space restrictions, it is logical to assess and compare the cost investment of improving the building including expansion versus the construction of a new building to better serve the required needs including economies of operation, etc.; but, of course, final availability of property becomes a key factor in this latter case.

I assume the Board will be reviewing these factors and further to these interim opinions, we would be pleased to propose a more thorough report including projected costs, and accordingly, I will be in contact with you at the end of the month in this regard.

Yours very truly,

STEVENS & SKINNER
architects

David C. Stevens
per me

David C. Stevens
M.R.A.I.C.

DCS/mc

John Sullivan & Joseph Pacek

Architects and Planning Consultants

John Sullivan MRAIC ARIBA MTPIC
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81 Barber Greene Road Don Mills
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March 26th, 1971.

Mr. Kenneth E. Holland,
Secretary-Treasurer,
Tillsonburg Library Board,
Tillsonburg, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Holland:

Thank you once again for your hospitality yesterday. It was a novel experience for us to look at a small town during a strong growth period and to see the opportunities and pitfalls in the physical shaping of the environment. I hope you won't mind if, in the course of our work in your area, we give you some of our impressions and ideas of the town at large - they may not bear any relation to the reality of your problems, but it is often helpful to hear the impressions of someone quite new to the scene.

John Sullivan and I talked a lot about your building plans last night, and, with respect to the library, we recommend without hesitation that you rebuild upon the existing site. Neither of the possible alternative locations with their more spacious sites can compensate for the convenience and immediacy of the existing location in the heart of your shopping area, reinforcing the sense of a town square, backed by the tradition and custom of the long usage of the present building. It is a location that most library boards would be delighted to have, but rarely have such land available.

An extension to the present library would, we believe, be an unsatisfactory expedient. Libraries are gradually taking on a much wider cultural role in communities, with talks, films, discussions, art exhibitions, classes, demonstrations, as well as becoming major centres for information about other cultural activities for the district. And also their use as study and resource centres for both children and adults has grown rapidly in the last few years. To encourage the use of this community resource entrances should be inviting, easy and casual, the interior attractively designed for the variety of activities taking place. Your present library, however, was designed for the

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specific use as a library and cannot properly be adapted to the new role demanded of it.

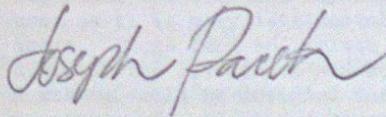
The unusual shape of the site poses several challenges; first, to put a functional building upon it; second, to retain the existing park amenity and third to bring a new dimension to the locality by its presence, and by its relationship to the town hall. We believe all these challenges can be met successfully.

The cost of a new library will naturally be dependant upon its size, which in turn will be influenced by the programme the librarian wishes to conduct, the physical ability of the site to hold the required accommodation, and the financial resources available. This information has yet to be compiled, but meanwhile if you are concerned for a guide estimate to allow Council to proceed we suggest that you double the size of the present library and use a cost per sq.ft. figure of \$25.00, which is the average building cost of branch libraries completed in this vicinity during the last three years (excluding landscaping and furnishing).

If Council wish to proceed (and the community involvement in this project would make it an excellent Centennial building), then the next step would be to tie down the programme and make some design studies of the building and site. We would like to do this for you, and suggest that our fee be based on the time involved with an upper limit of, say, \$2,000. This latter figure is somewhat of a guess, but we think you should have some upper figure in mind and we should have some restraint. On the basis of this study we can then jointly decide what the next step should be.

I am putting together a few thoughts on your recreation centre, a more complex problem, but meanwhile will send off this letter right away in case you wish to initiate some action.

Yours sincerely,



Joseph Pacek.
JP/jdp

J O H N S U L L I V A N & J O S E P H P A C E K
8 1 B A R B E R G R E E N E R O A D , D O N M I L L S , O N T A R I O

PROJECT: Tillsonburg Library.

March 25th/71.

MEETING: Ruth Gibson (Board), Betty Sargent (Council), John McKenna (Board),
Matthew Scholtz (Librarian), Ken Holland, Joe Pacek, John Sullivan.

1. Present library: 2 storey structure, many steps, fabric in fair condition, but posing some problems. Lower floor - children's books with seating for (20), side entrance. Upper floor - adult library, reference area (2 seats), reading area (12 seats), periodicals (12 seats), plus staff office and charge desk. 15/16,000 total volumes. Serves larger area than town. Expanding function. Stacks encroaching on study space.
2. Present staff: librarian plus 2 full-time assistants and 1 part-time. Open afternoons and evenings.
3. Location: on shopping street, directly opposite town hall and square. Ideal location for pedestrian traffic, particularly for out-of-town shoppers. Would be important to establish some relationship across to town square - the latter is in some danger of losing its form and importance when the Woolworth land is built upon - control should be exercised over the latter building to make it complement its surroundings. Should examine the possibility of closing one or both of the roads to north and south of the library site and creating a pedestrian enclave. This might lead eventually to an interesting development of small stores in place of existing housing, and could add a whole new dimension to the shopping area with easy access to library function.
4. Site: Present building occupies portion of narrow deep lot. Balance of lot is a small lawn to the east, and a well-treed park and children's playground to the west. 1-way street on south, 2-way street on north.
5. Alternative Sites: Railway land presently forming dividing line between residential and commercial districts - slightly more remote from shopping, but more convenient to residential area. Recreational centre - remote from shopping, but will become central to residential area on completion of new subdivision.
6. New use for building: Some discussion of using building for another purpose (e.g. museum) if new library built elsewhere. It is most important however that any building in this location have an intense use, as it is very detrimental to shopping patterns to encounter dead areas. These tend to isolate stores beyond the dead area, and to diminish the liveliness and bustle of a good shopping experience. A museum could be designed for the site to offer an attractive resting point and give a casual cultural involvement, but the present building with its high flight of entrance steps tends to dissuade involvement.

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7. Space Requirements: These have not yet been fully determined. The librarian will put down his thoughts in this regard and the architects add their suggestions. Additional stack and reading space appear desirable, as well as a multi-purpose room for small film shows, exhibitions, etc.
8. Architects asked to comment on the desirability of adding to present library, or rebuilding on present site or alternative one. If feasibility study necessary then indicate approximate cost of study.

c.c. Mr. K. Holland. ✓

Town library loan approved

26 Oct '73

The Town of Tillsonburg has received a \$220,000 federal government loan for the construction of the town's new public library. The loan is from the Winter Capital Projects Fund, and includes a potential forgivable loan of \$67,200, for winter labour.

A release from the Winter Works Program states that "This project is due for completion in May, 1975, and will create 1,920 man-days of employment at a payroll cost of \$67,200."

If the work is done between November and May of next year, the labour will cost the town nothing. There is a 50 per cent forgivable factor for summer labour.

Town clerk Ken Holland told The News this morning that the library board is hoping construction will start in November of 1974, and be completed by May 31 of 1975, to get "maximum write-off" of funds.

He said that no final design for the 9,000 square foot library has been approved by the board, although they have met with several architects. He said that the design of the new library, which the board hopes will be a one-storey, street-level building, will be closely co-ordinated with the design of the downtown shopping mall, planned for the area across Broadway from the library site.

The new building will be on the same location as the present library, but expanded to the front, and to the south, with the closing of the southern half of Washington Grand Avenue.

Mr. Holland said that the \$220,000 figure should come very close to paying for the new facility. He said that town council now has \$25,000 in reserve for the building, and should have about \$40,000 by the time construction is completed. He also said that the rest of the loan, after the labour costs had been deducted, is at a low interest rate - low enough to save the library board some \$2000 a year, as compared to current debenture rates.

Kinettes back Library project

Second general meeting of the Kinette Club of Tillsonburg was held on October 9, at the Town Gate Inn, with 22 Kinettes in attendance.

Guest speakers for the evening were Matthew Scholtz, chief librarian, and Mrs. Ruth Gibson, chairman of the Library Board. Plans were outlined for the new Tillsonburg Library with special emphasis on a children's corner. A motion followed that the kinette Club advise the library board of their interest in contributing to the proposed new library and as plans become more definite, inquire as to needs for a children's corner and the cost involved.

Library plans

3 October 1973

Plans for a much-needed new library for Tillsonburg are developing after extensive investigation by the Library Board, a letter to council from Mrs. Ruth Gibson, board chairman, indicate.

Active consideration of the

need was started about two years ago, and a capital reserve fund was started.

The letter indicated that approval has been given for a Federal-Provincial Winter Capital Projects Fund grant, and said that the Board has visited a number of libraries in southern Ontario and met

with several architectural firms.

Renovation of the existing building was considered but it was decided this is not feasible. A second concern centred on preservation of certain characteristics of the old library and it was the

developing

general feeling that this could be achieved.

Planning for the library anticipates the closing of the southerly part of Washington Grand Avenue and development of a pedestrian walkway to link Broadway with the park and a proposed parking area at the rear.

"We feel that our plans should be co-ordinated with the re-development scheme (for the downtown core area) - We do, however, have time schedules to meet to qualify for the forgiveness feature which means a substantial contribution by the Federal and Provincial governments.

It is essential to have our design planning ready by early 1974 in order that the project may be completed by May 31, 1975."

The Board asked for an early meeting with Council to discuss any questions, and Clerk-Treasurer Ken Holland was asked to arrange this.

Setback for library proposal

Proposal for a new library, a project on which the library board has been working for more than two years, was either shot down or received a bad setback when a preparatory motion by Councillor John Armstrong was defeated five to four on a recorded vote.

Councillor Armstrong moved that the clerk be instructed to advertise the closing of the south lane of Washington Grand Ave., easterly from the alley to Broadway. He said it was a necessary prelude to the redevelopment of the library. A pedestrian walkway would be provided to give access to a new municipal parking lot.

Councillor Armstrong pointed out that approval had been given for a winter works grant of \$70,000 and a fund of \$25,500 had been built up towards the building by a yearly amount set aside by councils in past years. With other grants available, he said financing could be handled for about \$9,000 per year, or about 1-15th of a mill. This is practically the same as the town has been setting aside towards the building fund. Need for a new building had been clearly established, he said.

Objecting to the motion, Reeve Russell Honsberger said it was premature as council had not yet voted on whether to build a library or not.

Councillor Dr. Dick Dalby spoke in favor of the library project, saying it was entirely practical and badly needed. "If we don't do it now, we'll probably never do it," he said.

Councillor Armstrong called for a recorded vote on the street-closing motion. Nay votes were cast by Mayor Jones, Reeve Honsberger, Deputy-Reeve Wilkinson, Councillor Alabastine and Councillor Sergeant. Yea votes were cast by Councillors Dalby, Armstrong, Bennett and Horton.

Take look at finances, other factors

Library issue far

In spite of a decision by Tillsonburg town council that undoubtedly slowed down the Tillsonburg Library Board's drive for a new library, it seems that the issue is far from dead.

Town council on Tuesday

night turned down a resolution calling for the advertising to close the southern section of Washington Grand Avenue, from the alley to Broadway.

The library board has considered closing the street essential to the building of the long-planned new library facility.

The resolution was introduced by town councillor, and library board member, John Armstrong, and was defeated by a narrow 5-4 margin.

Mr. Armstrong, although disappointed in the defeat of the resolution, told The News that "I hope this is not the end of the new library."

Library board chairman Mrs. Ruth Gibson said that "as far as the board is concerned, we are not willing to give up yet."

Tillsonburg Mayor Bryan Jones, who voted against the motion to close the street, said that there are several factors involved in that decision, but noted that "I'm in favour of a new library." He said that "the vote on Tuesday was because there is still a certain amount of uncertainty about expenses with the new shopping mall," and with a possible extension of town limits into Dereham township.

He said that such an addition to the town could mean the town would have to hire additional policemen and town employees.

He admitted that "there is a certain danger in post-

poning" the building of the new library.

Councillor Armstrong points out that "we have a deadline" on the project. The government has approved a winter works program loan to the town to build a new library facility, and this loan will terminate as of May, 1975.

from

Mr. Armstrong says that there is a need to take action very soon if the library is to be built under this loan. He points out that at least six months are involved in preparation, and that demolition of the old library and site preparation would take even more time. "We're

dead

starting to get squeezed," he said.

Tillsonburg deputy-reeve Russell Honsberger is not convinced that the library board's plans to build a new facility on the present site are the answer to this question. Mr. Honsberger cast a vote against closing the street at Tuesday's council.

He said that a decision on a library is "premature," and suggested that council must make a decision as to whether they want a new library before plans go any farther.

He said that the entire question of a new library "is something we'll have to consider."

The deputy-reeve said "there's a lot of things I've got doubts about," and he suggested that late answers could include an addition to the present

(Continued on Page 2)

Library issue

(Continued from Page 1)
building, or the choosing of a completely new site.

New library supporters have pointed out that council passed the winter works program application, and that this implied support for the project. Mrs. Gibson says that "we feel that we have been encouraged by council," both by the approval of the application, and by a council capital allotment of \$8,500 a

year toward a new library, that has been made annually for the past three years.

However, deputy-reeve Honsberger says that council saw very little discussion of the loan application, and "approved it in the understanding that there was a deadline."

He says that "it was a matter of getting the application in, just in case they wanted to go ahead."

Mayor Jones says that "the timing of the resolution was wrong," but that "I know that the present building is inadequate." He said some of the problems include a leaky roof, poor heating, and inadequate space for books.

He said there was a possibility of still meeting the Winter Works deadline... "there's another month anyway."

The mayor suggested that "we need it, it's a type of project that is a service, a need for everybody...but it still costs money."

He said "I wouldn't give undue encouragement that it's going to start next month," and suggested that council could not look at the project "until we know what our financial position is...at the end of the year."

He admitted that public pressure on council could bring faster action, saying "it might, you never know...the vote was only 5-4."

The mayor noted that a new library was considered as part of the overall downtown redevelopment project.

Councillor Armstrong feels that council's decision has taken the matter into the hands of the general public, the residents of Tillsonburg. He says that "because council has turned it down at this stage, I would think the next step would be up to those outside of council."

He said that "if anyone wishes a library, then he should indicate this interest," adding that one method to indicate interest would be letters to council, and to the editor of The News.

He noted that council has been aware of plans for a new library for some time...that they have made the annual capital allotment, and approved the winter works application, and that they have met with the library board to discuss the proposals.

He said that "the next step is up to the public."

Councillor Armstrong said the street closing is essential to the new library. He said the board will not expand to the rear, into the park, because that facility is used by the Day-Care Centre, and "the day-care centre is very vital to the community."

Mrs. Gibson stresses the need for a new library, stating that "the library has deteriorated to where we can't repair it. It's not feasible."

She notes that a new library was proposed as a Centennial project, in the year that the Community Centre was built, and that the library board cooperated with that effort. "Who has priority now?" she asks, "we waited patiently, and planned financially for it."

The library board has not given up... "I can't see that it's a lost cause yet," say Mrs. Gibson.

Viewfinder

by Frank Rubie

14 Dec. 1973



We got to talking the other day about a new library for Tillsonburg. It seems to be a popular subject lately. Actually we sort of got hooked into the conversation by our good friend Joe Doaks.

"Looks like the new library won't be built," Joe opens.

"Well, some councillors don't seem overly enthused," we admit. "But who needs it anyway. We already have a library."

"But the roof leaks, the plumbing is shot, the lighting is inadequate and the heating system is beyond recall," he reminds us.

"It's nothing that 40 or 50 grand wouldn't patch up, so that it would be almost liveable, which would save the taxpayers a pile of money." We thought we had him then.

"Two things are wrong with your argument," Joe says, very patient. "In the first place, all that patching wouldn't add one foot of badly needed space, and in the second, it wouldn't save any money. And besides, the interior is badly designed when it comes down to the business of being an information centre, which is what a library essentially is."

We begin to get interested, but not convinced. "How do you mean it wouldn't save money?"

"Councillor Armstrong and members of the library board have been doing a lot of research on this project for the past three or four years. During that period, council had agreed that a library was needed and set up a fund, putting away \$8,500 a year.

Now, the library board, with the blessing of the present council has succeeded in getting approval for a \$70,000 winter works grant to pay for labor on the building. This, along with other grants, plus the capital building fund, would make it possible to finance a new library for around \$9,000 a year, or about \$500 more than we are now paying into the fund. Divide that among the taxpayers and they couldn't buy a package of peanuts with it."

"But \$500 is \$500 no matter how you slice it," we persist. "And Reeve Honsberger says he needs the money to build streets and roads."

We had Joe there, as he had to admit. "Yeah, I guess that's right. You could probably pave Tillson Ave. for \$500 and have enough left over to fill a few potholes. But isn't a good library worth 20 cents a year to you?"

It did sound like a good deal when he put it that way, but we still wondered what all the rush was about.

"Because, if they don't get off their duffs and build it next winter, the winter works grant will likely go up the flue, to say nothing of the rising costs of building," Joe clinches. "And \$70,000 is not to be sneezed at."

"It does sound like good business to spend a little to gain a lot, and anyway, it's pretty small when you compare it with the cost of core redevelopment, which nobody seems to be objecting to."

"Maybe Multi-Malls would agree to letting us have some space for a library. It would be an added attraction for shoppers," Joe mused.

"That doesn't seem like a very good solution. It might be better if people would tell council how they feel."

"Wouldn't do any harm," Joe agrees. "After all, there are a surprising lot of folks who still read."

"Why did Reeve Honsberger buck the motion to close part of Washington Grand Ave.?"

"He said it was premature, as they hadn't decided yet whether to build a library or not."

"Was that the real reason do you think?"

"I don't know. Maybe he doesn't want a library."

Topic? 14 Dec. '73

PEOPLE

By Paul Knowles



It's like a woman preparing filet mignon, with side-dishes of exotic vegetables, and cherries jubilee. Her husband comes home from work and says either "I'm not hungry," or "Could I just have a plate of beans, dear?"
Inconceivable, right?

Yet, Tillsonburg town council has done much the same thing in regard to the Library Board's proposal for a new library. The board has gone to a great deal of time to prepare a very workable, and most economical, plan for a much-needed new library.

Town council, when faced with the question, said they weren't hungry, and a few suggested that they might go for a plate of beans.

The current library building, according to the library board, architects, and the Mayor of Tillsonburg, is outmoded, old fashioned, and unworkable. It is extremely cramped for space, with just about as many books going into non-circulating storage every month as are coming in as new editions.

It is not, say the experts, in good enough repair to make an addition a practical suggestion at all.

Yet, council turned down the concept to a new library, at least for now.

The library board had applied for, and received, a winter works grant that would provide low-cost money for construction, and pay all of the labour involved in the building of a new library.

Town council approved that winter works application some months ago. The grant does require immediate action.

Yet, council turned down a street closing proposal regarding half of the south strip of Washington Grand Avenue, a move equivalent to turning down the new library.

Tillsonburg town council has been allocating some \$8,500 a year for the past three years to a capital fund for building a new library. That certainly seems to indicate that council has been in favour of building a new library facility.

Yet, council has put the stall on plans...a most expensive stall, it would seem, with a golden opportunity available right now to build a library as inexpensively as we ever will.

If people in the town don't want a new library, fine. We'll trudge along with what we've got, inadequate though it may be.

I find it interesting, however, that one member of town council who is always urging that we return decisions to the people, voted against a new library, and says he doesn't feel we need one all that badly, without consulting with the voters at all.

The new library plan could be killed quite effectively by a total lack of public response to town council's decision. Mayor Bryan Jones admitted to me that sufficient pressure from the residents of the town could bring about a change in council's decision, and might speed up library plans a good deal.

Library supporters on council, and on the library board, are urging people to write to town council and to The Tillsonburg News, backing the idea of a new library.

If most of the people who use the current library are willing to get involved, the town hall should disappear under a giant mound of letters.

Figures indicate that about 56 per cent of all the living, breathing residents of Tillsonburg are card-holders in the Tillsonburg Public Library. I think it's time that those roughly 3600 people did little more than take out books.

It's time we, to use an old cliché, took pen in hand, and let council know how we feel.

My suggestion, for what it's worth, is to write to town council, let the people know of your stance with a letter to the editor of The News, and maybe give a phone call to the members of council who have voted against the library building plan...

If you read, write.

LIBRARY

The Editor: Your many comments on the very poor conditions of Tillsonburg Public Library are in order, for I had expected, after taking up residence here 18 months ago, a better library. The basement for children's books is in good order, but for adults its shelves are forlorn, not much in book selection. The staff are very proficient, but cannot give their best when they have nothing to offer to the adult public for reading.

When a person moves to a strange town, as we have, you seek a house to live in; then a doctor for your health; stores for eating and living purposes, then

where to meet your reading requirements. For such a prosperous, good town, the poorest library set up. I wonder why? Surely others who are natives of this town must have noticed that their library has been sorely neglected. Wake up the town hall folks and let them know that a good library is needed in Tillsonburg.

18 Jan 74
Dudley D. Spencer
3 Lisgar Court

Letters to the Editor

NEED LIBRARY

The Editor: How true are the words spoken by Dr. Dick Dalby last Tuesday, Dec. 4th, during the Council session, when he referred to the setback for building the new Library: "If we don't do it now, we'll probably never do it."

We need a larger library more than anything else. We need more space for books, more space for reading, more space for showing educational films and more space for exhibitions of art.

How can anyone vote nay on a project as this? Is it possible that we have educated people in Tillsonburg who don't realize the importance of this project and the huge benefits it will cast on its people?

We can manage without new stores, without new garages, without new parks, but NOT without a NEW AND LARGER LIBRARY. The present library has served for many years and served us well, BUT at the present time IT IS TOO SMALL and cannot operate at full capacity and provide us with the necessary service for an ever increasing population.

Hoping that Council will revise its views on this subject. I respectfully sign,
Hilaire C. Vandermeersch,
Photographer.

14 Dec. '73

LIBRARY HOLDS KEY

The Editor: I was appalled and saddened at Council's decision regarding closure of the south part of Washington Grand Ave. - which was, in fact, a decision not to proceed with plans to build a new library. Since it is recorded as a motion to close the street (rather than to build the library), some of those who voted against it have been able to say that they feel a library is needed and they are in favour of it - yet they voted in such a way as to effectively block construction of it. Is this a new type of political fence-sitting? You really cannot say "Yes" to two views that are in conflict.

A library is used by People of all ages. Toddlers choose their books by the pictures and carefully clutch them in mittened hands as they take them home to be read to them. As they grow up, surely books are among the most valuable resources and "mind-stretchers" available. All through life, People refer to the library as a storehouse of facts, knowledge, practical information, entertainment, culture. With the shortening of the work week, and the resulting amount of time available to follow one's own desires, are not the resources of the library more essential than ever before? Surely the pursuit of pleasure should not be the prime opportunity afforded those with more leisure time. If it is, we are turning our backs on one of our country's richest resources. An adequate library could provide the

tools for learning that could well result in a changed community, a better country - a country whose people were well-informed, concerned, eager to literally make it a better place in which to live. The possibilities that books open up to people of all ages, of all talents, of all interests, are absolutely boundless. It is the library that holds the key. It is for us to turn it.

Your truly,
ADA C. MOORE

FOR CULTURAL FITNESS

The Editor: It seems most inconceivable that members of the Town Council would vote down the proposed construction of a new library. While a valiant and worthwhile attempt is obviously being undertaken to provide the best library service possible, this must be extremely difficult in a building which is too small, outdated and simply no longer functional. An addition to the building would only be an addition to the many problems inherent within the structure now in use.

Tillsonburg has much of which to be proud. Our Community Centre offers great potential for all to be physically fit. Why do we ignore intellectual and cultural fitness? As well as an increased selection of books, a new library could accommodate educational films and art displays.

With an approved winter works grant available and several thousands of dollars already allocated to construction of a new building, why are plans not being put into effect? The proposed downtown mall seems to be of little concern financially to members of council. But new library facilities would be a mere fraction of that expense. This can only lead one to believe that members of council are much more oriented toward commercial endeavors than to those educational or intellectual. Surely this worthwhile project must be reconsidered.

Sincerely,
BARBARA VAN DONINCK

Letters to the Editor

DISCOURAGED

The Editor: I was quite discouraged to read recently that the town council has decided to "slow down" the project to expand our library facilities. The need for the building program is obvious, but it would seem that there are other priorities. As legitimate as other claims may be, in my mind there should be sufficient funds for an improved library.

Judging from statements provided in the newspaper's reporting of the decision, it would seem to me that the time to act is now. Putting off the project will apparently place in jeopardy the possibility of receiving a government grant; therefore, if the reason for delay is to save money, surely in this instance the argument is invalid - unless, of course, the project is postponed indefinitely.

What, in other words, has the council really decided to do? Everything indicates that the priorities are such that the long planned expansion of our library may quite simply never take place. In this respect, I find the inaction of council unjustified; and I am disturbed, in spite of the close vote on the issue, with the sudden change of direction in the town's planning.

Yours truly,
Donald Wharram

SAVE LIBRARY

The Editor: I think the old Tillsonburg library should be saved and maintained maybe as a little theatre. There is a growing interest in history these days and the old library is one of Tillsonburg's few remaining historic buildings. The old Tillsonburg post office would be a

prize to have on any main street now, unfortunately it was torn down.

Other towns are preserving history these days; look at Niagara-on-the-Lake, they're restoring everything. Look at Toronto, they have three town halls, two of them side by side, one built in 1850 with gaslights and horseshoes, still intact; one built in 1891-1898 and the latest one finished in 1965 with the saucer-like centre. Who knows, how many libraries they have!

The new library should be located near the schools where the students are. Why not north of Tillson Ave. public school where there's an old empty factory. The new library would then be close to three schools.

Glen Groom

18 Jan 74 Box 58, Eden

TO LIBRARY HOUNDS

Open letter to Library-hounds: Did you vote for the mall, but not a better library?

We who pay extra for phoning Tillsonburg where most of our business is done, and money spent, don't have a say in these two items, but others who do should smarten up! As usual, I'll look through the mall, dud or not, and buy at home, where the faithful merchant gives service with a cheerful word.

For five years I've been a member of Straffordville Library, and since 1949 at Tillsonburg. How can you let a village surpass you?

The Librarians are helpful and I'd be happy to be one, but they need help with 'overduers'. Perhaps a Senior Citizen would like to feel useful in directing the flow of books in and out.

Why not write a note to express interest in our Library. If you don't like to read, don't write. We'll need all the help we can get.

Elizabeth Carson

LIBRARY BUILDING

The Editor:

Although it is late in the game to be expressing my views on the subject, the letter written to the editor by Glenn Groom prompts me to do the same.

It distresses me greatly to know that the library will be torn down. It is a valuable piece of architecture and Canadiana. The library board may have facts which prove our need for a new library, but if it is not feasible to make additions and improvements to the existing building, then build elsewhere and retain the old building and park. There are many purposes for which it could be used.

There is a group recently formed called Heritage Canada, founded by people who are interested in preserving our historical buildings for the enjoyment of present and future generations. It is a non-profit organization, a form of national trust, financed by donations, bequests and membership fees.

Canada has lagged behind other countries in being aware and concerned about heritage conservation. The National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States, England and Scotland have wide public support and have preserved many historically important properties.

It will be a great loss to future generations if our present library building and the little oasis of trees and park, on which it stands, is lost.

Mary Stickel

28 June '74

GET ON WITH IT

The Editor: Amen to Frank Rubie's and Paul Knowle's articles on the new Library Project!

In 1967 I was a member of the Tillsonburg Library Board. Many times the need for a new library was discussed and always the project was set aside because "the time was not right, money was short, but someday"...

Now it is six years later. A capable and progressive Board of Directors has worked many hours setting up a workable plan to get the ball rolling on a long overdue new library building. Again they are told, the time is not right, money is short... Sounds familiar to me.

When one considers the leap upwards in the cost of construction and labour in the past six years, we can realize that we will pay through the nose for our lack of initiative in 1967. Are we going to repeat that mistake in 1973-74?

We have an outstanding professional librarian in Mr. Matt Scholtz. Our present Board of Directors is willing to carry out this project of a new library. Let's show our appreciation to these valuable people and get behind them with our support and good will.

We need a new library, of this there is little doubt. Money for worthwhile causes is always forthcoming! So let's not put off a good thing but get on with the job to be done!

Yours truly,
Rita Keating.

LIBRARY

The Editor: Everyone agrees that we need a bigger library. But do we have to tear down a building which should be worth over \$50,000 at least, which I believe the building inspector says is structurally sound and which is architecturally beautiful? Why not sell this building and build the new library facing Bidwell Street as on some other suitable piece of ground which likely can be purchased for a fraction of the proceeds of the existing library?

Tillsonburg Ratepayers Assoc.
Feb 20 '74 D. J. Hillier



The Tillsonburg Public Library Board's building plans got a financial shot in the arm on Friday morning. Robert Lover, centre, of the News and Camera Centre, donated a \$500 cheque for the project to library board treasurer Ken Holland, left, and librarian Matt Scholtz.

May start something

Dec. 20 '73

Donation to library

The proposed construction of a new Tillsonburg Public Library received a tangible chunk of support on Friday morning. That support came in the form of a donation of \$500 towards a new library, from The News and Camera Centre, in Tillsonburg.

The donation was made by Robert Lover to library board secretary-treasurer Ken Holland, and librarian Matt Scholtz.

Mr. Lover expressed hopes

that this cheque presentation would lead to other donations from business, industry, and the public, towards the new library.

A motion regarding closing the southern sector of Washington Grand Avenue, from the alley to Broadway, was defeated in early December by Tillsonburg Town Council.

Officials feared that this meant the end of the Library Board's plans for a new

library, but considerable public support for the project may have changed that situation.

As yet, there has not been a fund-raising committee for the new library set up. Ruth Gibson, chairman of the library board, told The News that "you can't set up such a committee until you have a go-ahead to do it." She said such approval must come in the form of approval by town

(Continued on page 2)

council for the building of the new library.

Mrs. Gibson said, however, that "I'm quite optimistic that we'll get council approval." She stressed the need for quick action on the issue, because the library board has received a \$70,000 Winter Works program loan, much of which is forgivable.

The Library Board feels that, to capitalize on this grant, plans must get underway immediately.

Mrs. Gibson said that the grant can still be taken advantage of... "Without much further delay, we could still do it." She said that "it's going to be a tight squeeze," and noted that, ideally, town council would approve the new library at their January meeting.

The fund-raising drive is not official yet. However, donations can be sent to the Tillsonburg Town Hall, where donors will receive official receipts for income tax purposes.

A trust fund has been established for the money.

A library board spokesman said that the News and Camera donation will probably not be the last. "Other donations have been indicated," he said.

1430
2755
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Tillsonburg, Ontario,
December 11, 1973.

The Mayor and Council of the Town of Tillsonburg,
Town Hall,
Tillsonburg, Ontario.

On behalf of the Tillsonburg Library Board I wish to express our disappointment, concern and perplexity with your defeat of the December 4th motion to close Washington Grand Avenue South, which was to be a preliminary move toward establishing a new library in Tillsonburg.

In preparation for this project, the Mayor and Council have for the past three years approved an annual \$8500.00 addition to our building fund, and in May of this year approved the Board's application for a federal-provincial loan and winter works grant of \$70,000.00 with work to be completed by May 1975. The necessary groundwork of inspecting recently completed libraries in Southern Ontario and interviewing architects and engineers was undertaken and completed. The Board is now ready to proceed.

The three major objections expressed by members of Council in defeating the above mentioned motion were:

1. lack of parking
2. the "timing"
3. a matter of "priority"

With reference to these objections please note:

1. the availability of adjacent parking was clearly outlined in Councillor John Armstrong's explanatory remarks in support of the motion. Please review same with him.

2. the "timing" of our proposal is of the utmost importance. The present library building is inadequate to serve the needs of its 4500 active members and has reached the point in physical deterioration where repairs are impractical or impossible. When is the right time to proceed with a new building?

3. as to "priority", three years ago, when the Board suggested the construction of a new library as a Town of Tillsonburg

correct figure?

Centennial project, we were informed that the Community Centre proposal had top priority at that time, and we concurred with this choice. Where does "priority" stand now?

As one of the many Boards and Commissions which Council has appointed to help administer the Town of Tillsonburg, we feel the Library Board has been extremely patient in presenting its needs and preparing for them. We must now ask for immediate and specific direction.

1. When may the Library Board expect to obtain the necessary "priority" to proceed with its building project?

2. Exactly what does Council feel the Library Board's role to be if not to assess the needs of the community and strive to provide for same?

The quality and calibre of people you now have on your Library Board cannot be expected to function constructively, progressively and efficiently if we are to simply hold meetings, pass accounts and sign cheques to pay bills.

We wonder at Council's confidence and reasoning to turn down a project so diligently planned and unanimously endorsed by all of the members of one of its Boards.

Please advise as to what you now expect from your Library Board.

Yours truly,

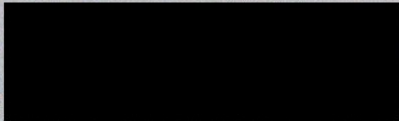
Tillsonburg Ont.
Dec.15/73.

To-Tillsonburg Town Council;

It was refreshing to know we have at least a few people left on our council that have something on their mind beside making a name for themselves by closing a street and building a new library for some people to read in, just because the government wants to give away money. I noticed the Town paper was very one sided and at least two of its writers suggested a letter of complaint might help get what the narrow minded minority wanted. It would seem to me what they should have done was ask every one to write and say what they think; if for or against such building at this time. As I viewed on TV councilor Armstrong talk as if there were no tomorrow asked for action at once and got it. I suggest he act like a man accept defeat. What I as a tax payer would like to know and see are some figures on the following questions.

- How many books are removed for reading from the library in one year?
- How many are fiction?
- How many different people read at or away library books and what is the cost per reader?
- What percentage would have any real beneficial culture in them?
- Why can't this building be incorporated in the new downtown mall?
- What would be the cost per user if only those using a new library had to pay for it.

As a tax payer I know as well as any other good thinking tax payer, no matter where the money comes from, each of us will have to pay in some way. Thanks again to those councilors who said no to something that was almost forced on us all without our say.



(Author's personal information redacted)

CC

Monday, December 17, 1973,

[REDACTED]
Tillsonburg.

Members of the Tillsonburg Town Council,

Sirs:

It seems most inconceivable to me that the Tillsonburg Town Council would actually vote against the construction of a new library. While valiant and worthwhile attempts are obviously being undertaken to make present facilities as workable as possible, this must be extremely difficult in a building which is out-dated, poorly-planned and simply just no longer functional. With an approved winter works grant and several thousands of dollars already having been allocated to the building of a new library, it's hard to understand why plans are not being put into effect.

Tillsonburg has much of which to boast. Its Community Centre, modern stores, wide, well-kept streets, excellent parking facilities, clean sidewalks, modern, well-equipped schools and efficient businesses and industries have to be a source of pride to all who live here. Could we not extend this to include a new library also? Since it appears that the time will never be more appropriate for construction, I urge you to reconsider the most worthwhile project.

[REDACTED]

(Author's personal information redacted)

Dec. 10 th. 1973.



Re: The setback on building a new Library.

To the Members of the Tillsonburg Town Council.

It really came as a surprise that the building of a new Library received such a serious setback.

When Dr. Dick Dalby said : "If we don't do it now, we'll probably never do it." He was so right, because it will never be done. NOW is the time, NOT LATER.

Is it possible that we have Council Members who don't see the importance of a new library with increased facilities for more books, more space for reading, more space for showing educational films and more space for future art exhibitions and more space for future intellectual activities?

Our library has served us well for many years, but the ever increasing population and ever increasing use of our library makes the present one TOO small to properly serve the people.

Hoping that Town Council will review its plans on this matter, I

sign respectfully yours.



(Author's personal information redacted)

[REDACTED]
Tillsonburg, Ont.

Dec. 18 /76.

Tillsonburg Town Council

c/o E. J. S. Clerk

Box 4211

Dear council members,

I believe that I have outlined my feelings about a new library facility in Tillsonburg sufficiently in my newspaper column. I also believe that members of town council have presented a more than adequate case for the immediate construction of a new Tillsonburg Public Library.

After having urged members of the public to write to you, and express their sympathy with the idea of a new library, I would be surprised if I did not do the same.

Therefore, I would simply say that, as a resident and taxpayer in Tillsonburg, I am very much in favour of the construction of a new library facility on the site of the old, and continually crumbling, building. As well, for economic reasons outlined to council by councillor John Armstrong, I would press for immediate acceptance of planning for such a facility, before the winter works program grant is lost.

Yours sincerely,
[REDACTED]

(Author's personal information redacted)

New library gets

9 January 1974

Faced with an improved financial situation, and some expression of public opinion, Tillsonburg town council did an about-face on their stand regarding the proposed new Tillsonburg public library last night. Council approved a resolution almost identical to one they turned down last month, calling for the advertising of the closing of the south half of Washington Grand Avenue, from Fox Alley to Broadway.

That move is a preparatory step towards the construction of a new library.

Council turned down a similar resolution at their December meeting, by a vote of 5-4. However, the turnaround saw the motion pass, 6-2, and Mayor Bryan Jones was not called on to vote.

He told The News following the meeting that, because of a better financial picture, he would also have backed the new library.

Voting for the motion were councillors Bill Bennett, Irv Horton, John Armstrong, Dick Dalby, Matt Alabastine and Reeve Seldon Wilkinson. Opposing the motion were Councillor Betty Sergeant and Deputy-Reeve Russell Honsberger.

Councillor Alabastine, Reeve Wilkinson and Mayor Jones all opposed the motion in December.

The resolution, presented by Councillor Bennett, said

"the board of the Tillsonburg Public Library has presented this Council with information and assurance that the proposed new library facilities can be constructed within the present capital budget appropriation, provided such is carried out under the Federal-Provincial Winter Capital Project Fund."

The yearly capital allocation, for the past three years, has been \$8,500 into the

council go-ahead

library capital fund. This amount, according to the library board, will not have to increase.

In other words, the new library will not cost the taxpayers of Tillsonburg any more than they have contributed for the last three years.

Following the council decision, Library Board Chairman Mrs. Ruth Gibson told The News that the additional money, over the

council allocation, and the already-approved winter works grant, would come from private donations.

She said that one local group, the Kinettes, have adopted the new library as a project, and will contribute money for the children's department in the new library.

Mrs. Gibson also noted the News and Camera centre's donation of \$500 in December, and library board member

John McKenna said that "between \$4,000 and \$5,000 is now pledged."

He noted that several other people and organizations have also expressed interest in making financial contributions to the new library facility.

Mrs. Gibson termed council's reversal of their earlier decision "the big hurdle." She said that there were now no major factors blocking construction.

She noted that council, of course, "has to approve the plans before construction."

The contents of the resolution approved said "that the Clerk be authorized and instructed to advertise the closing of the southerly portion of Washington Grand Avenue from Fox Alley to Broadway as a preparatory step to the construction of library facilities to incorporate a pedestrian walk-

(Continued on page 2)

way from Broadway to the proposed parking lot between Bidwell and Broadway.

"Resolved further that the Tillsonburg Public Library Board be authorized to proceed with planning studies for the proposed library facilities."

Before the final vote, Councillor Betty Sergeant emphasized that she favored an addition to the present building, rather than demolition of the current library for a new facility. "I've had a long-standing desire to see the same building stand there, and see an addition," she said, in explaining her negative vote.

Deputy-reeve Honsberger said "I have found that people have very genuine concern about the preservation of the present library...many people have approached me."

Reeve Wilkinson, although voting in favor of the motion, said "I'm certainly in agreement with a new library...I'd hate to see the old building come down."

Councillor Alabastine said that he was glad council had turned down the proposal a month ago. "I don't think we were ready to make a decision," he commented.

He noted that the initial opposition gave people a chance to think about the proposal, and was a contributing factor in the financial donations that have now been made or promised.

He pointed out two factors in opposition to retaining the building: the north section of Washington Grand needs to be widened, he said, a project impossible with the current library; and that the present building is impossible to use for lame people, or someone confined to a wheel-chair.

The new proposals call tentatively for a one-floor, ground-level library.

Council had received letters, in the majority favoring the library, and most councillors had been approached by ratepayers regarding the library issue.

But the major factor that changed council's vote was the financial aspect. Mayor Jones said that, while he now favored the library plans, if the financial situation had not changed, "I still would have voted against it."

First for province

Provide consultants for library project

The new Tillsonburg Public Library will be the first library in the province to take advantage of a new provincial government consulting program. The program, from the Architectural Services Branch of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, provides free architectural consulting services to any planned new library.

In the past, a library board had two options when constructing a library. They could hire consultants, at reasonably large cost, or they could use the "do-it-yourself" method, which can lead also to costly mistakes.

The new provincial program provides consultation by experts who know both the field of architecture, and the field of libraries.

The A.S.B. will study the building program submitted as an initial step to construction. They will continue aiding the Tillsonburg Library Board in almost all details, right down to the purchase of furniture for the new building. The proposed building program should be

prepared in the next two weeks. The provincial consultants are now reviewing several architects under consideration by the Tillsonburg Library Board, and will provide the local board with information about the various firms.

Library Board officials note that, with the introduction of this provincial service to the Tillsonburg library plans, all three levels of government are now co-operating on the construction of the town's new library.

The Federal government has contributed a healthy chunk of the funding, through a Winter Works grant; the province is providing free consulting services; and Tillsonburg Town Council has approved the construction of the library.

St. Joseph's students pledge \$100 to library

The students of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Separate School in Tillsonburg have pledged \$100 for the new Tillsonburg Public Library.

In a letter to The Tillsonburg News, the students said "they were very pleased with the decision to build a town library. We feel this would be a great asset to the community. When a move is made to collect funds, we will be happy to donate \$100."

The students say that the town now has an excellent community centre complex, and "we feel it is only fitting that an improved library be added to our community."

The letter is signed by the executive members of the student parliament at St. Joseph's.

No drive for funds has yet been started by the library board, but they will be seeking public donations some time in the near future.

Funds have already been promised under a Winter Works Program loan-grant; from the Town of Tillsonburg, under their annual capital fund for the library; and by several private donations.

The library board will meet tonight to name the architect of the new Tillsonburg Public Library.

Congratulations to the kids at St. Joseph's R.C. Separate School for their offer to donate \$100 to the building fund of the new public library. They have shown a community spirit of which we can be proud. It is anticipated that a fund will be opened in the not-too-distant future and some sizable gifts towards it have already been indicated.

Now, \$100 is not a great amount in terms of the entire project, but is worthy considering the limited resources of the student body. And, to quote an old phrase, "Many a mickle makes a muckle."

Handwritten note: (Tillsonburg News) Feb 20 '74

Handwritten note: 18 Feb. '74



LIBRARY PAGES

By Matthew Scholtz

Dec 21 '73
THE LONG TUNNEL

On the question of improved library facilities, there are a good number of people who are very sympathetic, except that in their view, improvement should be in the form of extending the present building rather than tearing it down to make room for a new one.

In this way, the library's biggest problem, lack of space for books and people, would be cheaply solved. Also, a historically charming building could be saved.

With this sort of approach, however, there are a lot of problems. First of all, those who want to save the old building should consider that they are saving a building that is falling apart. The roof tiles are falling off gradually, so that the roof leaks. The porch bricks are breaking apart and the edges of the concrete porch are flaking off in large chunks.

Also, the wiring and plumbing and heating are all totally inadequate. Two winters ago, for example, the heating couldn't cope, and simply quit, leaving the temperature in the building to plunge to about 48 degrees during a January week-end.

Aside from the purely physical failings of the old (1915) building, there is the problem of the present design trying to fulfill its function as a viable library.

In other words, people who would like to make do with the present building plus an extension are doing something no modern architect in his right mind would ever do: to wit, try to design a building from outside in, rather than from inside out, and then try to force the building's activities and function to that design.

It's like trying to put square pegs in round holes.

It just doesn't seem logical to fit a form into a purpose. One identifies the purpose, and then designs the form to make that purpose possible.

In other words, one should think about what a library should do, and then think of what sort of building will fulfill that purpose.

Well, the library should be the following things: a building in which books, newspapers, films and records can be efficiently stored and organized for public use, in such a way that these materials and the building are easily accessible. It should also be a cultural meeting place, where people can gather for films, story hours, see displays of all kinds and generally exercise their minds as a group or as individuals.

plus an extension measure up to this? Hardly.

First of all, it would be terribly inefficient, since it would simply be a long tunnel of a building, very difficult to supervise from a librarian's point of view. The exterior would look and have the functionability of a long tunnel and the interior would look like a bowling alley. To the public, the interior would also look like a maze, because one cannot get a general impression of a library's collection when it is organized in very long shelves.

Secondly, there would still be no room for groups of all ages to meet for films, lectures and story hours. The library should be more of a cultural, community centre,

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

rather than just a warehouse for books.

Thirdly, there would be no convenience for the building's users, because the high steps into the adult and children's department would still be there, a burden to young and old, and a real danger in the slippery snow of winter.

Lastly, it would still be on two floors, causing duplication of staff, files, control points, telephones, and a waste of time for patrons who get books in the adult department and then need to walk downstairs with their children to the children's department.

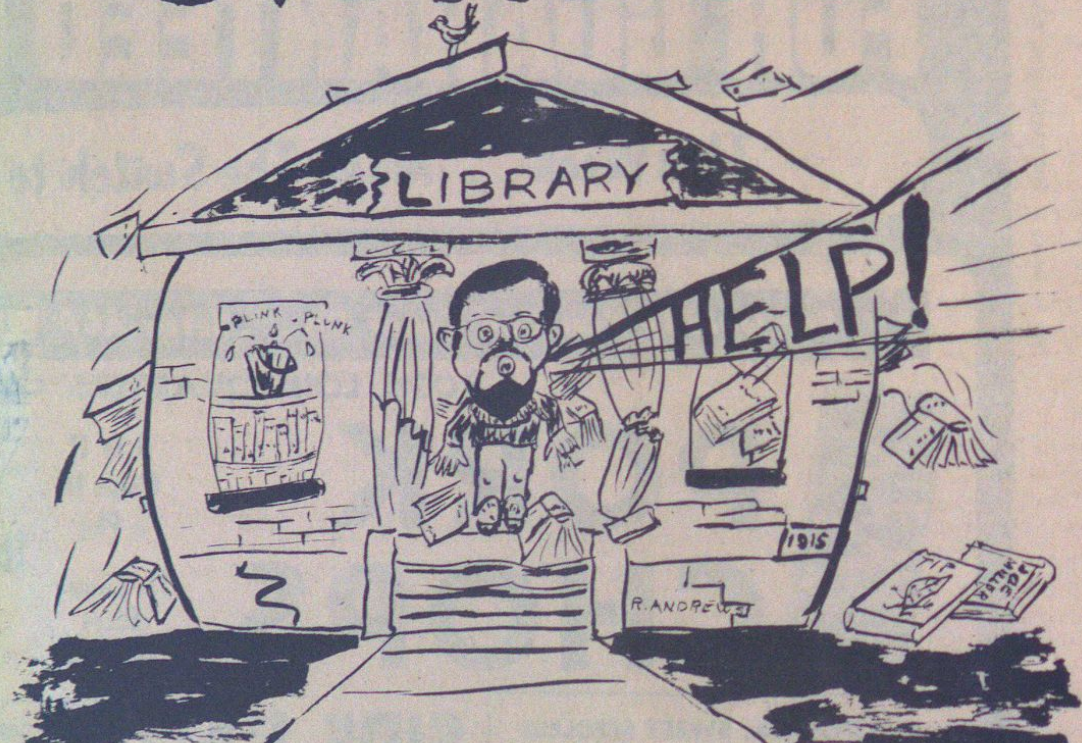
In sum, an extension means this: waste of money, an ugly, highly inefficient, inconvenient building that would be difficult to manage, control and organize, and very frustrating to use.

This sort of building is a credit to no community, much less progressive Tillsonburg.

So, if dreams of building extensions and sugar plums are dancing in your head, try to remember what comes first: a building, or the purpose it's supposed to fulfill, and then have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, whether you agree with us or not!

To conclude a good year of bad jokes, we thought hard awhile and came up with this: The man who invented spaghetti used his noodle.

OVERDUE



THIS ISN'T A JOKE, IS IT, MATT?

Library architect *6 Feb '74* named this week

The architect who will design the new Tillsonburg Public Library should be named by the library board near the end of this week. Library Board chairman Mrs. Ruth Gibson told The News that "we hope to pick the architect this week."

She said that the choice had been narrowed down to two architectural firms, although the board will interview one more before the choice is made. The additional interview, she said, is because one firm has told the board they are "horribly under-budgeted."

The board has been using figures that call for a total expenditure on construction of a new library of \$255,000. Mrs. Gibson said that one firm has predicted the new library could cost \$60,000 more than that. "With the escalating costs of everything," she said, "I can

understand that some think this is under-estimated."

She said that those figures were prepared some time ago, and that the board has revised their budget to "about \$280,000...sort of taking the medium between the high and low estimates."

Of that figure, the board is estimating roughly that about \$40,000 will have to be raised from private donations. Other money will come from government grants, including a Winter Works Program grant, and from town council's yearly capital appropriation of \$8500.

Mrs. Gibson says that some private individuals have contacted the board regarding donations, although no amounts have been named. As well, donations have come or been pledged from both business and industrial sources.

(Continued from Page 1)

Mrs. Gibson says that the board will probably wait until sketches of the building are available before making an organized drive for money from the private sector.

Demolition of the old library, and construction of the new, should begin "late in the Fall" of this year, says the chairman. "We hope to start the new building by about the first of November to take advantage of the 100 per cent labour cost grant under the Winter Works Program."

The library board will probably go back to town council for further approvals regarding the construction of a new library in about two months. Mrs. Gibson says that the board will go to council "as soon as we get the preliminary drawings, which will also include a more detailed budget." She said that the drawings should be finished by the architect in about eight weeks time.

One problem the board will have to deal with before demolition of the old building will be where to store the thousands of books. Mrs. Gibson says that no plans have yet been made, and that the books and equipment "will have to be put into temporary quarters someplace. Just where, I don't know."

TRIO, FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 1974

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51 Broadway 842-9422 Tillsonburg
MUNTZ STEREO CENTRE

Choose architects for new library

The Tillsonburg Public Library Board has named the architectural firm who will design the new Tillsonburg Public Library. Chosen from seven applying firms were Rieder and Hymmen, of Kitchener.

The decision was reached last

evening at a meeting of the library board.

Rieder and Hymmen have experience in the library-design field...they were the architects for the new Cambridge Library, recently opened, which was toured by the Tillsonburg board

before a decision was reached. Library board chairman Ruth Gibson told The News that "it was a difficult decision."

She said that the next step toward the new town library will be the preparation of preliminary drawings, a procedure that

should take about six weeks.

Following the preparation of the drawings, the library board and architects will be determining the estimated cost of the new building, which is to stand on the same property now occupied by the old library.

Approve preliminary drawings for library

The Tillsonburg Public Library Board has approved preliminary drawings of the proposed new Tillsonburg Public Library. Those drawings will be presented to Tillsonburg Town Council in a special session in mid-May for council's consideration. The date of that special meeting has not yet been set.

The Library board met last night with representatives of their architectural firm, Rieder and Hymmen, of Kitchener, for the presentation of further drawings. The board has already

seen exterior and floor plan preliminary drawings, and has approved the design.

Board chairman Ruth Gibson told The News that "I think it's a beautiful plan, and so does the rest of the board." She added that the proposal is also very "functional."

Mrs. Gibson says that an overall cost figure on the new building is not known, and will not be known until tenders are in for the construction. Tenders will be called, she said, "just as soon as possible, after we've got the

go-ahead from council."

There was considerable controversy about the new library at town council when the idea was brought up at the end of 1973. In fact, council rejected the proposal for a new library the first time it came in front of a meeting. Public pressure, and added details about the plans, changed the minds of some councillors, and the new library received a go-ahead.

The plans are now back in the hands of council, or will be sometime this month. Asked if

the drawings will be approved, Mrs. Gibson said "I'm optimistic."

The proposal calls for a one-floor, street level library. It would be built on the present library site, across from the Town Hall, and would expand to the south. Council has already approved the closing of the southern half of Washington Grand Avenue.

There will still be a walkway in that location, running from the new Bidwell Street parking lot, to Broadway. The entrance to the

Library plans before council

Tillsonburg Town Council, meeting in closed executive session last week, got their first look at the initial sketches of the proposed new Tillsonburg Public Library. The next step in the library plans is up to council. They must vote on whether or not the new facility will go ahead.

Library board chairman Ruth Gibson told The News that "we would like to see it (the council vote) sometime this month," but no official date has been set. It is possible that the bylaw will appear on the June meeting agenda of council.

If the proposal receives the approval of town council, it will go to the Ontario Municipal Board. Town clerk Ken Holland

explains that the OMB must approve any financial expenditure proposed by a municipal council, that will incur a debt that extends beyond that council's term of office.

However, he told The News that, with a federal Winter Works grant already approved for the new library, the OMB is most unlikely to hold up their approval.

When town council approval for the library becomes official, the library board plans to start a campaign for private and business donations to help build the new library, says Mrs. Gibson.

Mr. Holland says that the overall cost of the new library, including furnishings and

demolition of the present building, has been estimated at \$255,000.

He said that the Winter Works grant, which pays 100 per cent of labour costs on the project between November 1 of this year and May 31, of 1975, will cover about \$70,000 of that figure. By 1975, the town's capital fund for the library will total \$42,500.

The library board anticipates borrowing about \$100,000 from a federal government loan fund, at low interest rates. Mr. Holland says that this loan should not increase the present town library budget... "It would keep our budget pretty well in line with where we are now," he said.

The remainder of the cost

would be raised in the fund-raising drive.

Both Mrs. Gibson and Mr. Holland stress that the actual cost will not be known until tenders are received for the new library. Mr. Holland anticipates that tenders will be opened sometime in August.

He says that it is important to get approval from council in the near future, in order to take advantage of the Winter Works funding... "July's cutting it pretty thin," he added.

Mrs. Gibson estimated that demolition of the present building will begin in late summer or early fall, and "the new building should start by the end of October."

22 May '74

Introduction

When it was constructed in 1915, the Library was able to serve the needs of the community adequately, but in 1974, it is no longer able to do so, in terms of space, design, and structure.

What is now required is a new building on the same site, with more room for books and people, in a pleasant, colorful surrounding which is conducive to not only "book" oriented activity, but also "non-book" activity, in terms of small or large group meetings, audio-visual potentials and story hours, making the Library less a library and more of a Cultural Center.

Exterior

The exterior should be inviting, dynamic, capable of aging gracefully, and most important, it should look less like an office building and more like a library.

In this regard, and also in consideration of the many well-meaning individuals who are opposed to the destruction of the old building, it is suggested that the exterior might have the basic fundamentals of the old building: the triangular roof facing and the columns.

The entrance to the building must be street level, with glass doors, preferably in two sets, to cut down on drafts. The lobby should have a recessed rubber link matting flush with the floor and easily removable for cleaning, with space nearby for leaving rubbers. The Library hours should be posted prominently on the door, preferably on a board with changeable type, so that hours and library events can be indicated.

A bookdrop should be included near the door, large enough to receive large parcels approx. 12"x12"x18". A display case should also be near the door.

Total sq. footage desired: 9,000, to serve a projected population base of 10,000.

Exterior Cont'd

Floodlights with a time control should light the building by night, with some exterior plugs for special lighting, e.g. Christmas decorations.

A bicycle rack should be a permanent feature, preferably nowhere near glass (in case of carelessly placed bicycles toppling over). Some provision should also be made for those who come to the Library early. A bench at the Library entrance, or nearby, is suggested.

Somewhere on the face of the building, the Library should be identified prominently and emphatically with the words "Public Librery."

Interior

The interior of the building must be designed as efficiently and effectively as possible, so that the functions and responsibilities of the Library may be fulfilled.

In general terms, the interior should have the following characteristics:

- * Be designed in a modular fashion, using the standard 3 foot module.
- * Be organized for easy supervision by staff and easy use by patrons.
- * Have numerous signs consistent in color and type to help the user find his area of interest.
- * Have a bulletin board for Library and community announcements. This might be mounted on a pillar, making it a carousel of announcements and thereby saving valuable wall space.
- * Include some permanent spot for a map of the Library, preferably near the entrance, or near the catalog. The sign itself may be hand-drawn, but it should be assigned a definite spot.
- * Be carpeted, with the exception of the entrance, circulating area, catalog area and workroom, which are heavy traffic areas. The carpeting should be capable of withstanding heavy use and leave no marks when the furniture is moved.
- * Be divided into Children's and Adult Departments, with easy supervision of both. The Children's Department should include an aquarium and have wall space above the book shelves lined with cork for children's painting display and other paper decorations.

Interior Cont'd

- * be designed so that heating and air conditioning do not interfere with library functions. Electrical system should be capable of handling the addition of photocopiers, microfilm reader, and sound reproduction systems (record players, tuner - amp, cassette recorder.)
- * be designed so that lighting is consistent throughout the public area for flexibility of shelving.
- * include some high strip windows, so that wall space can be utilized by book shelves.
- * be layed-out with workroom, circulation desk, catalogs and librarian's office together in one cluster, for easy service activity.
- * be designed with a 10 foot ceiling minimum.

In general, the interior should be pleasant, inviting, easy to use and service, with flexibility of use and practicality of purpose.

If the building is to be designed with a basement, the staff room, washroom, janitor's closet, multi-purpose room and heating/airconditioning should be downstairs.

A display area, preferably near the circulation area, should be included for minor displays, e.g. museum artifacts.

Circulation Area

The circulation area should be capable of charging books in and out, as well as supervise as much of the library as possible. It must definitely be near the entrance to the building, and close to the workroom and librarian's office, as well as book drop and catalogs.

The desk itself should be 36" H x 26" W, with length to be determined by the interior layout, but nevertheless large enough for 2 people to service the desk simultaneously. Recessed into the top of the desk should be a tub of 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ " W trays, to a total of 225 "(length). The top of the desk should be washable and capable of withstanding a good deal of wear, and have some space underneath, so that staff may occasionally sit during circulation duties. Within the drawers should be space for 150" of 3x5 cards. Since this file will often be consulted, it should be near the top of the desk.

Near the desk should be space for a book truck, which the Library already has. Dimensions: 43"x 36" L x 20" W.

The desk might have a book display area to pass the time for those waiting to have their books checked out. An open shelf in the desk should accommodate interlibrary loan books, reserve books and films waiting to be picked up, with the area in front capable of handling 6 - 8 people.

In the eventuality that a photocharging circulation system is someday installed, the electrical wiring in this area should be fairly flexible.

A large public clock (electric) should be installed in this area.

Shelving

The present book stock of the Library is 18,000 on 1,600 linear feet shelving. There is an immediate need for 2,000 linear feet shelving, with an eventual total capacity of 4,300 feet for 30,000 books, in the standard 3' sections, 80 - 88" H, with shelves to start a minimum 6 - 8" from the floor.

The shelving should be metal.

The shelves should be of a non-light reflecting metal, with 6" depths for fiction, 8" depths for non-fiction. The former are to be closest to the circulation area.

Approx. 60% of the shelving should be fiction, 40% non-fiction, and 30% children's and 70% adult.

The shelving must have backs, so that books do not slip between the shelving, and they must be adjustable, and arranged so that books may be grouped logically and sequentially, according to the Dewey Decimal System. There should be an easy traffic flow among the shelves, circulation desk and reading areas, with aisles approx. 3½'. The ends of the shelves should be of material that will permit placement of shelf identification signs.

The children's department shelves should be lower, with a 60" H max. Some 10" D shelves must be included (20') for picture books.

Since paperbacks will be used more and more, as prices of hardcover books continue to climb, approx. 90' of paperback shelving is required. These must be of the type that permits the shelving of the books in such a way that the spine shows. The circularly, rotating drugstore type is to be avoided most definitely. Since expansion in paperbacks will be a constant factor, the area around the paperback section should be kept clear for further shelving additions.

It is recommended that the paperback area be near the circulation area for easy supervision, since paperbacks can easily be stolen.

Washroom

It should be kept locked, with the key to be kept at the circulation desk. It should be built for durability, capable of withstanding defacement (if possible), soundproof, away from the general library area, and accessible to the multipurpose room, with some shelving for those people with books. Ideally, it should be in the basement area.

Librarian's Office

Must be near the circulation and work area, with approx. 100 sq. ft. It should contain the Library phone, as much shelving as possible, space for a radio (sound to leak to work and circulation areas), large desk and chair, 2 extra chairs, a vertical file drawer and wastebasket.

It should be capable of supervising the Library, so that a glass partition with drapes is recommended.

Board Room

Should have a table for 6 - 10 people. This room may be an extension of the Librarian's office, be a room on its own which may also serve as a meeting space for small groups, or be part of the multipurpose room. The economics of space will have to determine the location of this room.

Lighting

60 ft. candles are suggested for the general browsing area, with 80 ft. candles for the office, circulation and work areas. 30 ft. candles may be used in the heating, janitorial and storage areas.

Staff Room

Should be well away from work areas so that staff can take a full, relaxing break. It should have a sink with electrical outlets, with the possibility of adding a small stove and fridge later.

400-500 sq.ft. are recommended, large enough for a sofa, one chair and a coffee table, and to include coat hangers and boot trays as well as cupboards.

Work Room

Should be near circulation desk, so that staff might be able to work in both areas. Should have a good deal of desk space, so that books might be spread out for repair and processing. 8" shelves are necessary for in-process books, preferably 20'. Shelves and cupboards may be ceiling height.

Since this space is visible to the public, it must be capable of good organization. A small sink is preferred, but not necessary. The table should be easily cleaned, and there should be space for a typewriter, shelflist (19"W x 14" D x 52" H), which the Library already has, 15" approx. paper rollers on the end of the table for book covering rolls, a 3 drawer file cabinet and a space underneath part of the table, so that work can be done while seated.

400 sq.ft. are recommended, although more would be preferred, especially since the addition of a library technician may at some time later on be considered.

Seating

The Library should seat 50, with 30 in Adult, 20 in the Children's Department. At least 2 carrels should be considered for private study. Table tops are not to be light reflecting, with all furniture to be as durable as possible, easy to clean, and difficult to deface. 4 person/table should be considered.

Chairs are not to be overstuffed, as these are often difficult to get out of, especially for older people. Furniture legs are not to stick out. At least 2 link (bench) chairs should be in the reading area.

Multipurpose Room

Should seat 50, in 900 - 1,000 sq.ft., and be capable of functioning independently of the Library. If it can be located near the staff room, the facilities of that room can serve the Multipurpose Room; otherwise, separate kitchen facilities will have to be considered. Fixtures should be on the walls to permit hanging of artprints, etc., with lighting from the ceiling to light these. A permanent retractable screen should be included, with proper electrical outlets near the projector area. Light controls should be in this area, as well as the entrance to the room (for latecomers to film showings). Some chair storage space should be nearby, as well as a clothes hanger. Darkening drapes are essential to this room.

Catalog

As this is the public key to the Library, it must be in a prominent place. There will be two catalogs, one for adults, and another for children, both being of necessity near the work area. Since this is a heavily used area, it need not be carpeted.

Each catalog is 561 sq.in. One new adult catalog will have to be considered in the near future, so space must be allotted for it. Each catalog should also have a nearby sign, indicating directions for use. A vertical file (4 drawers, 14" W x 26" D x 52" H) should be considered. This need not be part of the new building, but space should be provided when the drawer becomes necessary.

Reference Area

Seating for perhaps 10 on one long table. This is a study area, and should be away from most of the traffic and noise, but still capable of being supervised. 2 study carrells should be considered for this area.

Shelving should consist of 100' of 10" shelving, with a dictionary stand. In case of reference book spill-over, there should be shelves nearby to handle the excess.

Reading / Periodicals / Newspaper Area

This is a browsing area where silence is not essential. Tables in this area should be round to emphasize the informal nature, with some link benches. This area should be apparent and welcoming to those who enter the building. Low bookshelves might be considered for easy supervision. This area should be near the circulation area for easy supervision. (Magazines can easily be stolen.)

Expansion

With Tillsonburg growing very quickly, an addition to the Library will probably become necessary in 20 years.

Expansion is preferred in the adult department, since most of the growth will likely be there. Some books from the Children's department can be moved into this area to form a Young Adult area. Expansion is preferred in mezzanine form, if possible, with the upper floor to become the non-fiction area, leaving the first floor strictly for fiction, thus making future supervision fairly easy from the same service points.

Library

new library will probably be on the walkway.

The preliminary drawings of the new building have been kept tightly under wraps to date, but Mrs. Gibson says they will be released within the next few days.

At that time, the library board will start a fund-raising campaign for the new library, something that is already unofficially underway, with commitments and money received from several businesses and private individuals.



At their annual past president's night Monday evening, the Kinettes Club of Tillsonburg presented a cheque for \$500 to the Tillsonburg Library Board. The novel cheque, designed by Sue Charlton, is the first payment on a \$2,400 commitment made by the Kinettes for furnishing the children's section of the new library. The cheque, very appropriately, was in the form of a child's book. From left are Adele Armstrong, president; Elaine Hogarth, co-convenor of the library fund drive; Mrs. Joan Ort, vice-chairman of the Library Board, who received the cheque; Sue Bamford, co-convenor, and Sue Charlton, cheque artist.

Kinettes make donation on \$2,400 library pledge

Tillsonburg Kinettes Club held their annual Friendship Night on May 14 at the Community Complex. There were 17 past presidents, 20 Kinettes, four honorary Kinettes and 58 guests in attendance.

Mrs. Joan Ort, member of the Library Board, was introduced and presented with a cheque in the amount of \$500, the first in a series of donations towards the purchase of furnishings for the Children's Corner of the new library.

First Vice-President Kinettes Sue Charlton devised the unique cheque, made up in the form of a children's book and depicting Beatrix Potter's animal characters. As each additional donation is presented towards the total pledge of \$2,400, a new page

will be added to this Children's book.

To quote Mrs. Ort, "On behalf of the Tillsonburg Library Board, I am delighted to accept this very novel cheque, depicting Beatrix Potter's animal characters. I feel a little today like the famous character, Peter Rabbit, who has just been given a big juicy carrot from his garden. We will use this in the way that you want us to use it, for the children's section of the library. In a year and a few months, you will be able to go into the children's section with your children and your friends and say the Kinettes were responsible for a great portion of this room. A very sincere thank-you. We are delighted that you are interested in our library."

President Adele Armstrong welcomed the guests and introduced head table guests and past presidents.

the annual friendship night and 28th birthday of the Kinettes Club of Tillsonburg.

17 May '74

Library, PUC debenture issues receive Town Council approval

5 June 1978

Council, which had previously given the green light to the Library Board to proceed with plans for a new Tillsonburg Public Library, made it official Tuesday night when they gave three readings to a bylaw authorizing the construction and the issuing of debentures for the financing.

Construction of a public library had in October of last year, been approved as a federal-provincial winter works project, and under the conditions outlined, an estimated amount of \$67,200 would be forgivable.

The library board has provided in reserve funds sufficient to pay for furnishings and fixtures.

Amount of the debenture will be \$152,800, payable over 20 years.

In keeping with the library plans, Council passed a bylaw to close the south part of Washington Grand Ave. between Broadway and Fox Alley.

There are provisions for a walkway along the south side of the new building to provide access to the proposed new municipal parking lot and to the main entrance of the library.

The PUC will borrow by

debenture \$424,800 for improvement and extension of the water supply system and the electrical power system in the town.

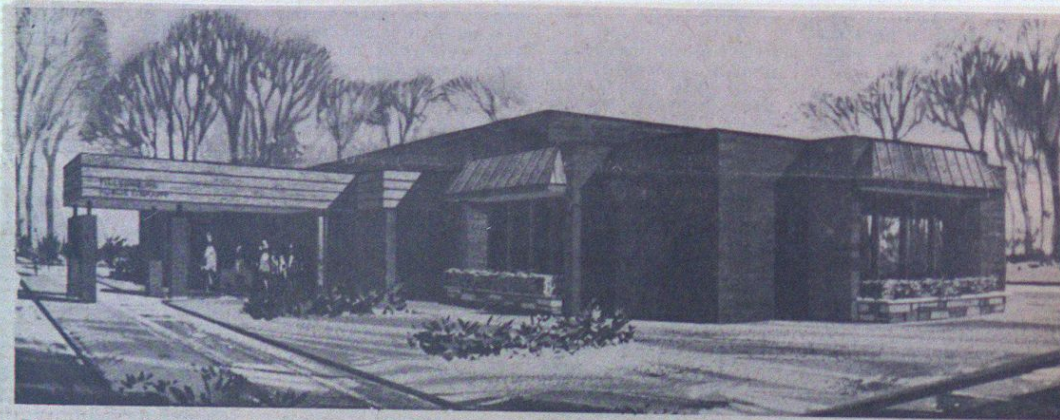
Hydro distribution improvements are expected to cost \$298,800, and waterworks updating will cost \$126,000.

Included in the hydro program are a new transformer substation on Durham St. (\$75,000);

reconstruction of feeder lines to the substation, (\$38,200); reconstruction of feeder lines on North Broadway during construction of the underpass at the Penn Central Railway, (\$89,900); and extensions to the Cadman subdivision, Stubbs subdivision, the condominium village and Lisgar Heights phase two, (\$80,700). The PUC must also pay \$15,000 to Ontario Hydro for the

distribution Middleton to part of the town year.

Water systems a new No. 10 concession including equipment, 10-inch water Ave. from culvert to T



Perspective sketch of the proposed new Tillsonburg Public Library, designed by Ryder and Hymmen, architects, of Kitchener. Main entrance will be on the south side. The southerly

portion of Washington Grand Ave. will be closed except for a walkway. Construction is expected to begin this fall.

Temporary location sought for library

19 June '74

Just exactly what do you do with 18,000 books, and a very active library, when the building housing all of this is being demolished?

This is the question facing the Tillsonburg Public Library Board, and librarian Matt Scholtz, and they are actively seeking an answer.

The problem is not so much the thousands and thousands of books...storage is relatively easy to find. However, the library officials are anxious to keep the library running throughout the period during which the present building will be demolished, and the new library, recently approved by council, is being built. Demolition will begin in late August, and construction is slated to run from October through March of 1975.

During that time, the town will have a library...but just where, no one is sure right now.

Matt Scholtz told The News that two or three possibilities are being considered for housing the TPL, but they are eager to find as much space as possible.

The library currently occupies a rather jam-packed 4,000 square

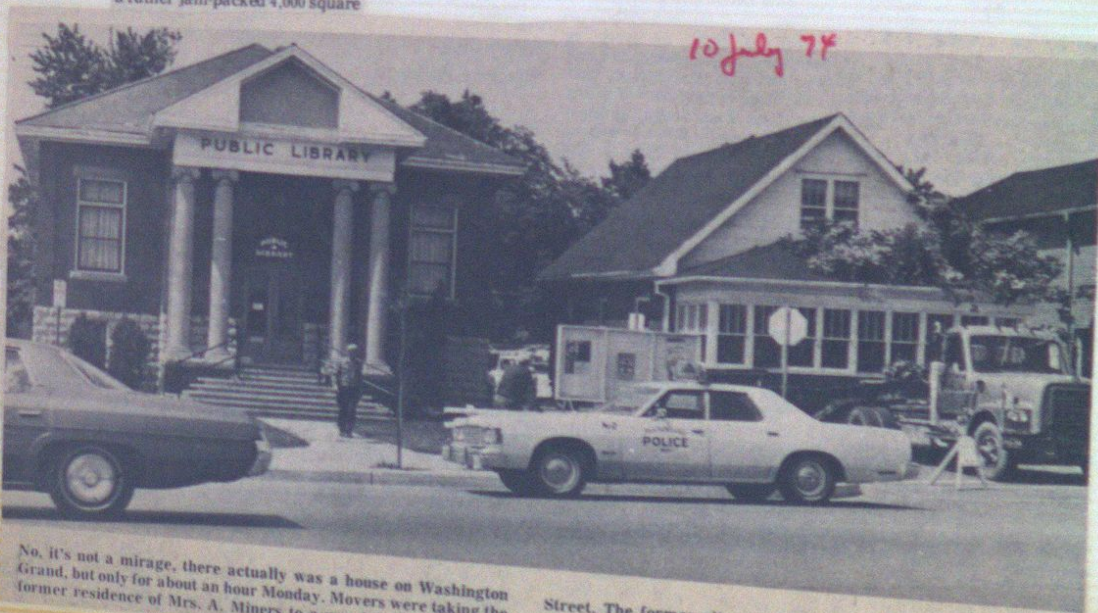
feet, and they want to find an area as close to that as they can.

He says that the library could keep running in a much smaller area...“we'd just take a very basic collection, and put the rest of the books in storage,” but that's obviously very much the library people's second choice.

One thing is going to ease the load a bit...especially during moving time in August. Mr. Scholtz says that they will en-

courage library users to take as many books as they want, and then a couple more, and keep them just about as long as they want. The library people are eager to empty the building as much as possible before actually moving to new facilities.

The same sort of program will probably be held in March, when it's time to move back into the new library. Slow readers take note...and take out books.



No, it's not a mirage, there actually was a house on Washington Grand, but only for about an hour Monday. Movers were taking the former residence of Mrs. A. Miners to a new location at 10 Pine

Street. The former site, on the south side of Washington Grand Ave., is being cleared for a municipal parking lot.

New library cultural keystone in downtown redevelopment

26 July 1974

By Matthew Scholtz
"Progress" at your Public Library last year consisted strangely of taking a few steps backward in order to eventually take a lot of steps forward.

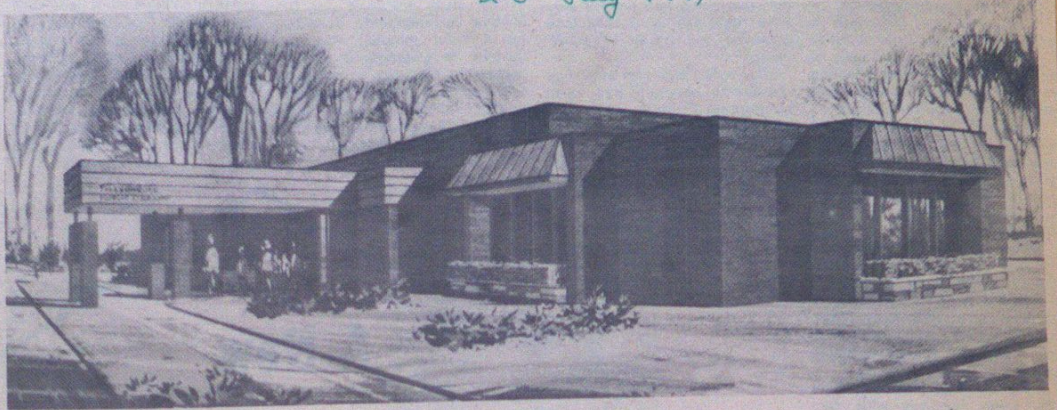
The backtracking was putting the library into a box, figuratively and literally. It involved putting into storage well over 500 books because there simply wasn't any space available on the library shelves for them and the new books as well.

An average of 15 new books are absorbed into the library's collection weekly, which gobbles up one 3' shelf a week, which adds up to quite a bit after awhile.

Of course, this sort of approach couldn't go on indefinitely. Consequently, 1973 saw the Library Board finalize its thoughts on the construction of a new building. The Board had already spent the past year visiting new libraries and studying the library needs of the community and how they could be satisfied in a new building or in an expansion of the old building.

After concluding that the old building could only be renovated and expanded at great cost without solving some problems (such as the difficult exterior and interior stairs), the Board decided that an entirely new building on the present site would serve the community to the best advantage.

Following this decision, the Board presented its findings to Town Council and in an attempt to initiate the building project, the Board recommended the



Architect's sketch of the proposed new public library planned for construction this fall, is shown. The building was designed by

Ryder and Hymmen, architects, of Kitchener, and will be built on the site of the old Library.

closing of the south side of Washington Grand, since the extra building space would be required to give the new library more width.

Council, concerned about the financial aspects of the proposal and the destruction of an old landmark, rejected the proposal in December, but following public support in favor of a new building and a re-examination of the financial considerations, the street closing was approved and subsequently a debenture was passed to finance the construction to begin in the fall.

The new building will be quite an exciting departure from the present facility.

Built on one floor (no stairs to worry about!), the library will attempt to be more of a community center, with a large all-purpose room that will be available for meetings, lectures, films and art and perhaps even museum exhibits.

Watching television is also a possibility. The Lake Erie Regional Library System expects to provide the Library with a Video-Tape Recorder that will be available for use in the Library. If the new library weren't being built, this generous offer would have to be refused, since the old building hasn't the space or the electrical capacity to handle a VTR.

Besides attempting to build a new door (plus a whole new building behind it!), your Library has opened the old door more hours recently. Sunday openings were an experiment in April 1973 and were so well received that they were continued last winter with great success.

Sunday openings contributed greatly to the increasing circulation figures. In 1972, cir-

ulation climbed to 61,700, to be exceeded in 1973 with a total of 66,000, which is far above the provincial average for a community of this size.

It is obvious that Tillsonburg is growing, and the Public Library would like to grow right along with it.

Why was the Library crying? Because its books were in tiers.

With the added space, films and records and perhaps even cassettes can be made available for borrowing and you may even be able to listen to a record player or radio on earphones.



Get ready...get set...move! That's what will be going on towards the end of the summer at the Tillsonburg Public Library, as all of the 18,000 books and pieces of equipment are going to be carted to the Federal Building basement, the home of the TPL while the old library is torn down, and the new library is built. Librarian Matt Scholtz is shown with a box of books, all ready to go across the street, and south on block.

July 29 '74

Public library moving to federal building

29 July '75

The Tillsonburg Public Library will find a temporary home in the basement of the federal building in Tillsonburg, and will be based there from September until sometime next spring. The Federal Building also houses the post office, Canada Manpower, some social service agencies, and the Customs offices.

The reason for finding temporary accommodation for the library is, of course, that demolition of the present library building will get underway in October, to make way for the new library which will be built this winter and next spring.

Tillsonburg's chief librarian, Matt Scholtz, told The News that the library board has agreed to rent the basement of the federal building, and that moving to the new facilities will begin in the first of September. The library will continue to be open to the public, and, except for minor changes in Saturday hours, open times will continue much as they are now.

Mr. Scholtz said that they should be in full operation in the new location by the end of September. Complete details on

operations there will be finalized in August.

In addition to basic equipment like desks, files, and such, there is a matter of moving some 18,000 books across the street, and south a block. They will all be moved...but library officials are hoping the public will help.

And everyone can help.... simply by breaking two long-standing library rules, which will be suspended...take out as many books as you want, and keep them until the library has been set up in the federal building.

The less strict attitude towards borrowing is now in effect, says Matt Scholtz.

Library officials are not certain when they will move into their new quarters. The date now

being "optimistically" forecast is May of 1975, but officials are covering their bets with talk about possible material shortages, and such.

At any rate, the new library should be in operation sometime next spring. Mr. Scholtz says "it's difficult to give a definite time." But he adds that they will be allowed to rent the Federal Building facilities as long as is necessary.

Tenders for the combined job - demolition of the present library, and construction of the new facility - will be called on the first of September, said Mr. Scholtz. From there on, with the help of the federal Winter Works Grant, construction should be full speed ahead.



15 Aug. 1975

What are you reading this fall? These gentlemen know... They've checked an armload of books out of the Tillsonburg Public Library, on loan until the end of September. The library is lending books on long loans, to simplify the moving process when they cross the street to the basement of the Post Office, their temporary quarters while the new library is built. Librarian Matt Scholtz, right happily holds the door for Joe Mooney, left and George Payne, and their books.

Gilvesy tender accepted for new library building

18 Sept. 1974

Council members, meeting with the Tillsonburg Library Board Monday night, approved a tender for construction of a new public library on the site of the old one.

Three tenders had been received by the Library Board; McManus Construction Ltd. for \$305,868; Van Gorp Construction Ltd., \$307,262 and Gilvesy Construction Ltd., \$285,997. The Gilvesy bid was accepted.

Work is scheduled to start in October.

The tender includes demolition of the old building, sidewalk removal and replacement, curb and gutter replacement, library shelving and carpeting and landscaping allowance at the base price of \$261,355.

Alternates include insulated glass, \$1,500; permanent aluminum finish on windows and doors, \$1,100 and a covered walkway and lighting from the parking lot area to Broadway, \$22,042.

The town will receive provincial and federal tax credits amounting to \$14,585 and federal-provincial labour grants amounting to \$88,699.

Other credits include a capital reserve fund of \$47,500 and special commitments and donations of \$42,500.

Architects and engineers fees, together with furniture other than shelving will amount to \$29,000.

Balance will be financed by a federal loan at seven per cent, of \$121,713.

Handling of the debt retirement

would cost just over one-half mill, it is said.

Reeve Seldon Wilkinson said Tuesday that the contract had been approved by a four to two vote in council. Two members did not approve the project because they wanted the old building retained, not primarily because they were against a new library, he said.

Reconstruction of Lisgar Ave. will be carried on this year in

spite of tender figures which ran about one-third higher than the estimates. Town Clerk Ken Holland said there was good possibility of securing an additional roads grant from the province and that likelihood of costs being lower if the project was delayed until next year are remote.

Construction of storm sewers northerly from Third Street is already almost completed.

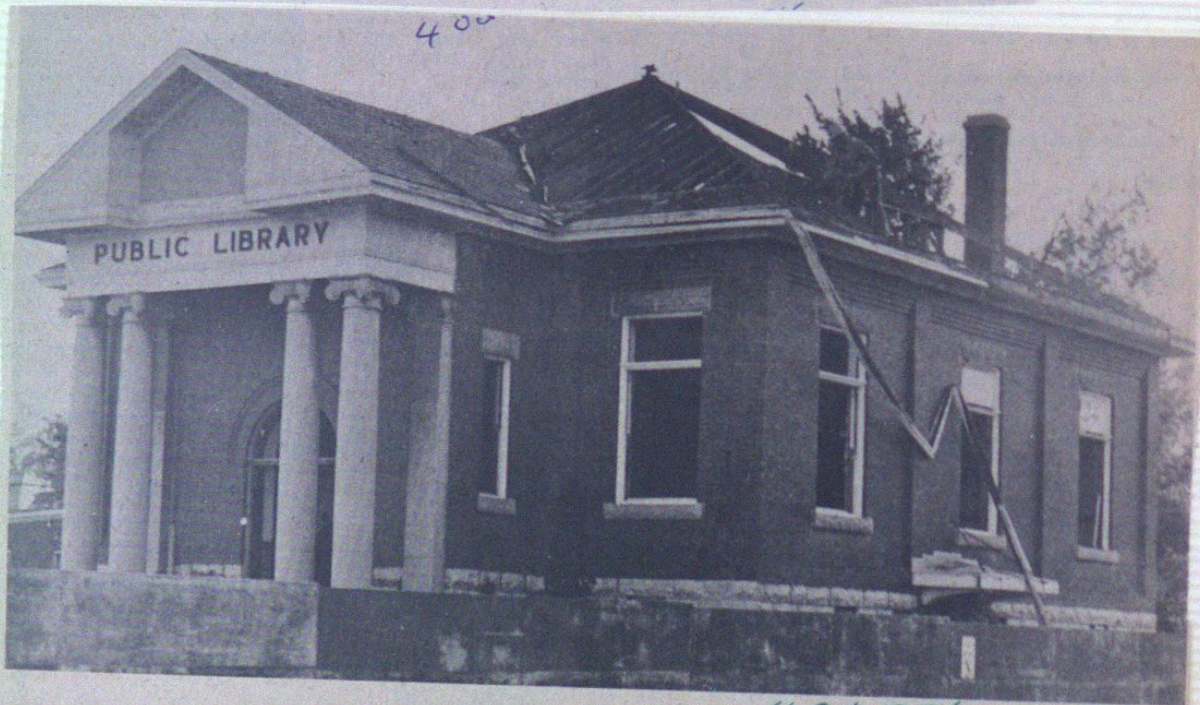


The Tillsonburg Public Library moved on Friday...from its long-time quarters in the library building, to be demolished next month to make way for the new town library, to temporary quarters in the basement of the Post Office. Librarian Matt Scholtz, top left, got a helping hand...or a lot of hands...from Annandale and Glendale high school students, freed from classes for the afternoon to do a bit of manual labour. The library should re-open in the Post Office basement by the end of this month.



25 Sept. 1974

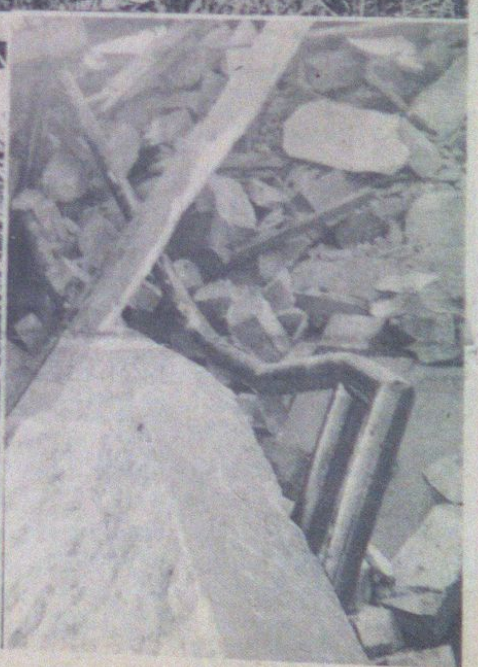
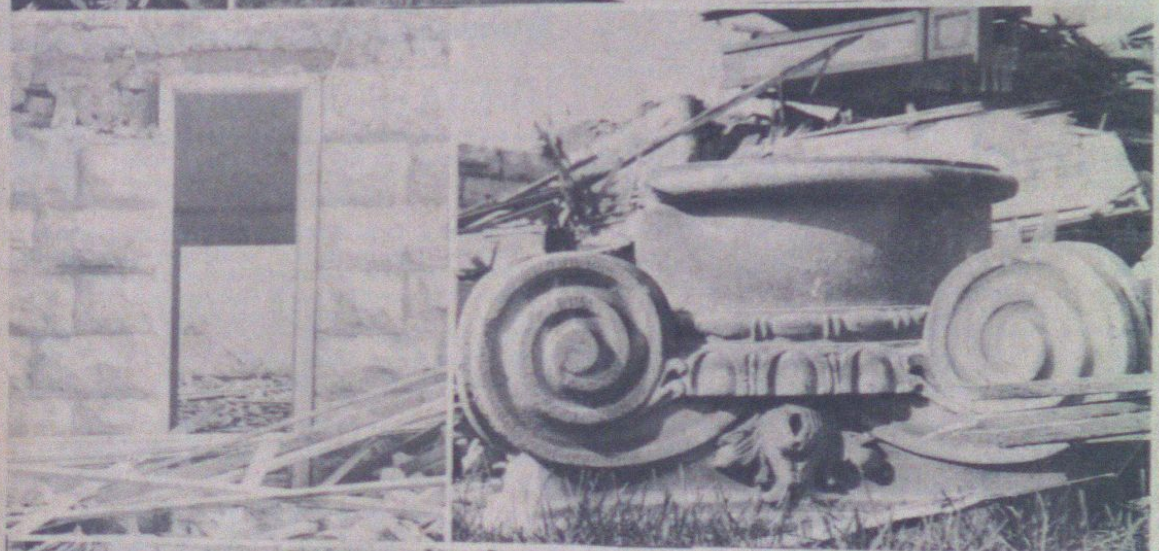
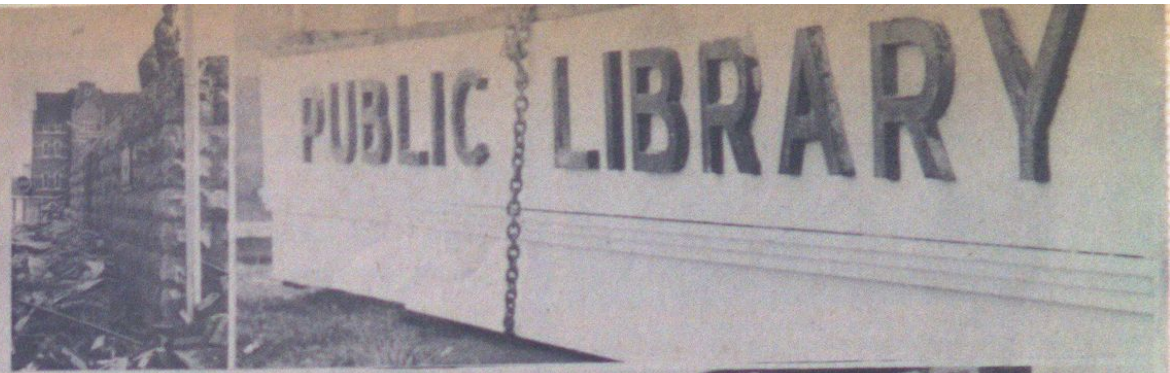
Take all of the books, desks and fixtures out of a library and move them to the basement of the Post Office, and what do you get? Well, for a while, anyway, a mess, and a tired librarian. Matt Scholtz will not be sitting down for long, however...he plans to have the temporarily-located library in full operation by the end of the month, or the first week in October. The old T.P.L. building will be demolished in October.



4 Oct. 1974

And down it comes. Demolition of the old Tillsonburg Public Library is now well underway, and the building lost its roof sometime yesterday. Demolition of the library, and construction of the new Tillsonburg Public Library on the same site, are being

handled by Gilvesy Construction of Tillsonburg. While all the hammering, sawing, and other construction activities are going on, the library is continuing to function in temporary quarters, in the basement of the post office building.



It may look like Tillsonburg's own Grecian ruin, but a closer look tells you that the Tillsonburg Public Library building is almost

demolished. The demolition is expected to be complete within a couple of weeks, and then construction will begin.

Old is down, new to rise

Oct. 14/74

The Tillsonburg Public Library is currently standing considerably less tall than it has in some years. The demolition of the library is nearing completion, and workers have levelled the building to the ground floor.

However, Gilvesy Construction superintendent Paul DeCloet

says that demolition is not complete yet. He says there is still considerable work to be done by hand, and predicts that "it's going to take another couple of weeks."

Mr. DeCloet, commenting on the general condition of the library building, says that "it

was very cheaply built." He maintains that the only strongly-constructed feature of the building was the sub-floor, which did not budge an inch when the north wall fell in on it, bricks and all.

An example of the quality is the "Public Library" lettering which

appeared over the main doors ...the letters are neither wood nor steel, but tin over wood, which means they instantly bend when an attempt to take them off the wood is made, and that they are not salvageable.

Apparently, as well, the library staff did an effective job of cleaning house...Mr. DeCloet says that no articles of interest have appeared during demolition.

When the current library building...or what's left of it...is levelled, and the property is cleared of rubble, construction of the new Tillsonburg Public Library will begin, on the same site. The new facility should open sometime in the Spring. The work is being done under a Winter Works program loan, which pays for the labour at no cost to the town.

The library is temporarily housed in the basement of the post office building.

October 15, 1974 THE TILLSONBURG NEWS Section 3 Page 1



MUSEUM NOTES by Helen Shearing



At last it is over and our loved Library is down and only a memory now of fond and happy days. It seems a mystic charm surrounds the past, and old time scenes are still a treasured dream that even passing years cannot efface. All too many institutions such as this are fading fast and new modern innovations are blotting out the past. If it were possible we would stretch out our hand to stay the hammer of demolition. We have been cheated and never can we recapture that which we have lost. They tell us it is progress.

Perhaps you would be interested in a bit of history on our lost Library...The first Library Board was formed in 1910 and

Mrs. Hilda Mason assumed the Chief Librarian responsibility, and faithfully fulfilled her duties until her retirement in 1970, at which time our present Librarian took over, Mr. Matthew Scholtz.

The Library building itself was not entirely used by the Library. The downstairs area served as a daytime kindergarten and meeting place. Many of us remember this as our first school and how proud we were as we started out all dressed up in starched dresses and hair ribbons the boys combed and scrubbed...We were ready to conquer the world; but down inside we were scared, although we weren't for letting anyone know that. Well I remember my

their first meeting was held on October 6th, 1910, with six men attending...acting Mayor C. H. Denton, Rev. J. Brown, John Smith, E. V. Tillson, Spencer McDonald and V. S. Thomson, with Rev. J. Brown declared the Board's first Chairman, William Imrie, whose personal library had been the village's Library for well over 30 years, became the first Librarian and secretary-treasurer. From this board a request was sent to New York for a grant to build a new Library. The Andrew Carnegie Foundation accepted the board's application for funds and they sent a grant of \$10,000.00 in 1914. In March 1915 our new Library was opened to the public. Architecturally beautiful and all of Tillsonburg and surrounding district were justly proud of their new Library standing at the corner of Washington Grand and Broadway.

Shortly after the opening a new Librarian was hired. Many of us will remember Miss Hattie Wood, who remained at the helm, keeping a very tight, no-nonsense, no-loud-talking ship until her retirement in 1949, when

first teacher, Miss Jennie Cambell. She was very kind and we loved her. She was, as I recall, a little person and she was a sister of Mrs. George Tillson. She taught the kindergarten from 1919 to 1922, followed by Miss Hazel Thorne from 1922 to 1939. She was followed by Miss Blanche Shearing from 1939 to 1945, who in turn was followed by Miss Bernice Wenig and in 1947 Miss Blanche Collins taught until the end of kindergarten in the Library 1951. At this time the Oxford Health Unit took over the basement of the Library and used it until 1958. The basement then was renovated and made available as a Library for the children of the community. This has been much used over these years by the children.

Members of the Historical Museum Society are asked to note there will not be a regular meeting this month due to the holiday on Monday, but be prepared for a "Potluck" dinner meeting on November 11 at our Museum. Museum hours through October are 2 to 5 p.m. daily, closed Mondays.

2 August '74

Long loan a hit

The Tillsonburg Public Library's program of lending books for a two-month period, to decrease the number that need to be moved to the library's temporary quarters, is proving to be a hit.

From now until the library is moved into the basement of the Federal Building, its temporary quarters until the old library is demolished and the new building opened, all books checked out can be kept until September 30.

Librarian Matt Scholtz told The News yesterday that in two days, 200 books were taken out on long loan. "people are clamouring to get books out on extended loans," he said.

He added that people who until now have not held a library card are taking out a card, and then books, on the new program.

Mr. Scholtz commented that, if library users have favorite books they would like to have on a long

loan, they should get them before someone else takes them home for two months.

He said the library board "aims to have as many books as possible in circulation" at the time of the move to the federal building. The library owns about 18,000 books, and they are hoping at least 4,000 are somewhere else when the carrying starts.

The program of lending books out on long term loans was announced Monday in The News, and Mr. Scholtz said "I'd like to thank The Tillsonburg News for its co-operation in this venture."

View finder

Frank Public

It is not often you can break a law or a rule without incurring a penalty. But for those who like to read, the opportunity is at hand.

Faced with moving umpteen thousand books into temporary quarters while the new library is being built, Matt Scholtz, Keeper of the Tomes, has suspended certain lending regulations. You can now go to the old library and borrow a whole armload of books and keep them for a few months, while new facilities are being built.

Just ask Matt, and he will give you the dope. But don't let him tell you any jokes.

1 Aug '74

Board calls tenders for library building

The Tillsonburg Public Library Board will be calling tenders for demolition of the present library building, and construction of the new library as of today. Tenders may be submitted for the work, which will begin in the first of October, until September 15.

Library officials told The News last night that they are expecting the cost to be approximately

\$250,000, but have not set a definite figure.

Tenders will be submitted to the architects, Rieder and Hymmen, of Kitchener.

The library will close for about three weeks on September 7, as all books and facilities are moved to temporary quarters in the basement of the post office.

Aug. 30 '74

6 Sept '74

TENDERS

Tenders will be received by the undersigned until 5:00 P.M., Friday, September 13, 1974, for construction of the Public Library at Tillsonburg, Ontario.

Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the Architects Office.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

Tillsonburg
Public Library Board
c-o Rieder & Hymmen,
Architects
279 Queen Street South
Kitchener, Ontario

We are happy to see that the new library is going to be built. There are always some who have a great affection for old things, and a few protests have been heard about the demolition of the present building.

Sure, it's a nice old structure, but it has served its purpose. Few that we can think of miss the old Post Office, the former high school or even Luke's Brewery, but there was probably a bit of a hassle when these went under the axe.

Aylmer citizens are presently in the throes of trying to save their old post office, and are going to end up with a bunch of cobbled up unsuitable accommodation for a municipal building if they are not careful.

The same story will probably be repeated here if and when it comes time to do away with the old Town Hall. There will be tears shed over our history. The actual fact is that we would have been much further ahead if it had been razed 20 years ago. At present, municipal offices and police headquarters are badly overcrowded, and will become worse with the expanded boundaries of the town coming up, which will mean an increase in personnel at these points.

Sorry, we didn't mean to start an argument.

18 Sept. 1974

Sept 13, 1974



While library board members prepare to open tenders for construction of the new Tillsonburg Public Library, library staffers have been busy packing books for the move to temporary quarters in the basement of the post office building. Shown with boxes of books... honestly, books... are Madge Graydon, and chief librarian Matt Scholtz.

Library tenders opened tonight

Tenders for the demolition of the present Tillsonburg Public Library, and for the construction of the new library, will be opened tonight by the Tillsonburg Public Library Board. Library officials are hoping that the contract can be awarded almost immediately, as demolition is slated to begin in the first week of October.

While library board officials are considering the tenders, library staff, headed by librarian Matt Scholtz, are packing books, disassembling shelves, and in general preparing to move the library across Broadway and south one block, to the basement of the post office building.

The library has been closed for a few days now to book borrowers, although some book-returneders have been admitted, and Mr. Scholtz stresses that films are still available.

Books will be available, he hopes, by the end of this month, as the library should be functioning in its temporary quarters.

Up to Thursday evening, library staff people had packed about 350 boxes of books, with a lot more to come. Some of the library's 18,000 books...about 4,000...will remain in storage, but the rest will be in circulation in the temporary location.

Receive three for library pr

16 Sept. 1974

The ongoing reconstruction of Lisgar Avenue; the recently-opened tenders for construction of the new Tillsonburg Public Library; and an amendment to the bylaw to provide for expansion to electrical and water distribution systems, are topics to be discussed at a special

session of Tillsonburg town council tonight.

Town clerk Ken Holland told The News late this morning that the session... which will be mainly closed executive meeting... will be held "hopefully" at 9 p.m.

The meeting could go into open

bids Sept. '74 project

session regarding the P.U.C. bylaw.

Of interest to council will be the three tenders for demolition and construction of the new library, which were opened by the Tillsonburg Library Board on Friday night.

No figures or firm names have been released, and no decision has been made about the tenders.

Tillsonburg clerk Ken Holland, also on the library board, told The News this morning that more contact must be made with the firms submitting tenders, to determine what amount of the tendered costs are for labour.

Labour on the project will be paid by the Federal-Provincial Winter Works program loan that was approved almost a year ago, for the Tillsonburg library project.

Depending on the percentages allocated for labour, says Mr. Holland, "this might net out pretty close to our estimates."

He summed up library board feelings about the prices when he said the proposed costs "are

(Continued on Page 2)

Temporary library opening Tuesday

30 Sept. '74

The T.T.P.L. (Temporary Tillsonburg Public Library) which is housed in the basement of the Post Office building, will open for business on Tuesday at 1 p.m. Librarian Matt Scholtz made it right on schedule with the opening, on the date he stated long before the move from the old library building was made.

The open hours will be 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. every day but Sunday; and 7 to 9 p.m. all week-days but Wednesdays.

The library will be housed in the basement of the federal building during demolition of the

present library building, now underway, and the construction of the new library facility.

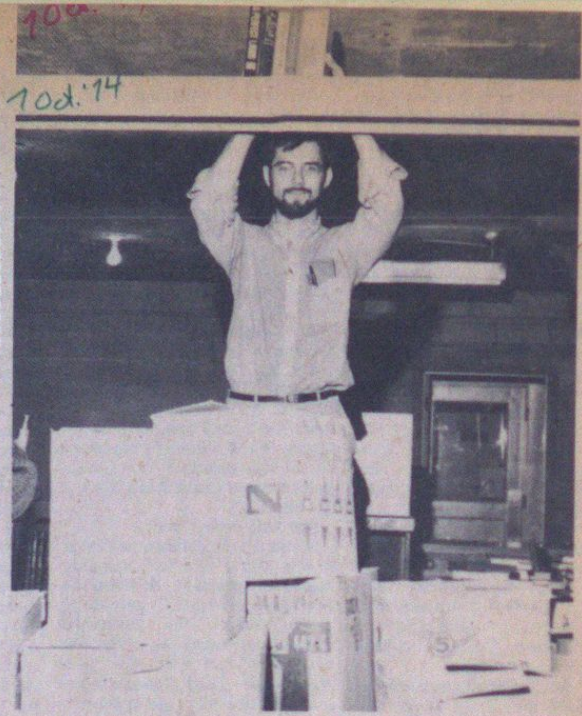
Mr. Scholtz told The News as well to "tell the people to bring back their books now on extended loans, slowly." He said that overdue fines are not yet in effect, and "won't be for the next week or so," and therefore the extended loans program should taper down, as people bring back books anytime in the next few days.

He said that if all extended loan books come back Tuesday, "there would be chaos."



TEMPORARY LIBRARY IN OPERATION

The Town of Tillsonburg will be getting a new library in June of 1975, but in the meantime the town has had to take temporary refuge in the basement of the post office in Tillsonburg. It took two weeks to move all the books to the temporary headquarters. Chief librarian Matthew Scholtz and children's librarian Frances Hutchinson check the library's collection. (Staff photo)



Got any bookshelves you don't want for the next few months? Librarian Matt Scholtz says he's got a use for them. Those boxes in the foreground contain books, for which there are no shelves in the temporary library home in the basement of the post office. He is reduced, as is shown, to stacking books on the piping along the ceiling. Anyone who can help with shelving should contact the library.



The pupils at Rolph Street Public School in Tillsonburg have presented a cheque for \$250 to the Tillsonburg Public Library Board, as their contribution towards the town's new library. The kids raised the money through a variety of school events last year. The presentation was made this week, with library board chairman Mrs. Ruth Gibson, right, receiving the cheque. Also shown are, from left, principal Bob Burnett, and students Greg Efstatheu, Mark Boughner, Leslie Jones, Martha Watkins, Dorothy Clarkson, and Danny Anderson.

Topic? / Nov. '74

PEOPLE

By Paul Knowles



With the footings, foundations, and so on, now firmly in place at the new Tillsonburg Public Library, it occurred to me one day this week that there had been no talk about a cornerstone for the new building. You know, one of those hollow blocks with a time capsule inside.

I called library board chairman Ruth Gibson, and librarian Matt Scholtz, and they confirmed that there wasn't going to be any hidden time treasure in the corner of the new town library.

Their reasons are the best...They feel it would cost too much money, and the cornerstones are not the most practical way to spend the limited funds available for the badly-needed new town library. The argument seems to me to make sense...Let's spend the dollars on books or bookshelves instead of something that nobody now around would ever see again.

But, none the less, it seems something of a shame that we don't get a chance to include a few choice items of historical interest in the foundations of the new building.

So, although there won't be a cornerstone, I think the matter of what would be in it, if...should be given some attention.

The first item I would include would be the resolution passed by Tillsonburg town council in December of 1973, rejecting the proposal to build a new library for the town of Tillsonburg.

The second item, which should be added quickly and firmly glued over the first, would be the January '74 resolution reversing the month-old decision, and setting in motion the plans that now see a new library facility being constructed.

Third, and closely related to the first two time-capsule items, should be before-and-after picture of the Tillsonburg Public Library Board. You would immediately notice a difference...In the picture taken before planning for the new library began, most of the board members were not bald, a self-inflicted condition brought on by pulling one's hair out by the roots.

Fourth: at the risk of imperiling the health of whoever opened the time capsule, I think a collection of the worst jokes of Matt Scholtz, the town's sick-humoured librarian, should be included.

In fact, if the sick jokes continue for many more months, there will be a large body of local folks strongly in favour of including Matt himself as one of the entries in a long-term time capsule.

Fifth, or perhaps sixth, depending on whether or not the librarian is duly packaged with the rest of the historical trivia, we should include that ridiculous stand on which the various newspapers are displayed at the TPL. The concept of that gadget is good, but the result bad...the headlines end up upside down, and most of the papers are hidden. Now that's fine for most newspapers, but The News surely deserves better treatment.

We might even persuade some local craftsman to produce a scale model of the old Tillsonburg Public Library, complete with cracked foundations, crumbling plaster, a leaky roof...and those giant pillars that promptly fell over when the roof they were supposedly supporting was raised a few inches.

And, lastly, we probably should include a few of the more widely read books in the library. I took a look through the shelves in the temporary T.P.L. a couple days ago, and found some real goodies, which Matt assures me remain high on the most-read lists. They are a must for any time capsule:

The 549-page 1961 anthology entitled "Selected Readings on The Canadian Economy." I couldn't wait to read it, but the waiting list grows longer each day;

A mythical, completely misleading fantasy called "The Romance of Writing," written by someone with a rose in his-her hair in 1956;

And, the award-winner for "Book with most concise, clear title: "Man's Rise To Civilization As Shown By The Indians Of North America From Primeaval Times To The Industrial State," (only 322 pages).

LIBRARY COLUMN

The Editor: Paul Knowles has again aroused the envy of columnists like Art Buchwald and Professor Schlepfinger, with his recent manifestation of wonderful wit and wondrous wisdom. (Pulitzer Prize committee, take note!)

We are, of course, referring to his latest column suggesting some possible contents of an equally impossible time capsule for the new Public Library now under construction.

Daring, for one ridiculous moment, to attempt a reply to his comments, but knowing that we nevertheless stand in his (large) shadow, we present herewith our own suggestion for the mythical time capsule:

(1) A copy of Paul's December column, drawing public attention to the need for and advisability of building a new library, thereby playing no small part in the construction of the new cultural center. (We recall Frank Ruby's column as well, but since both columns would be overpowering, a second capsule for it might be required).

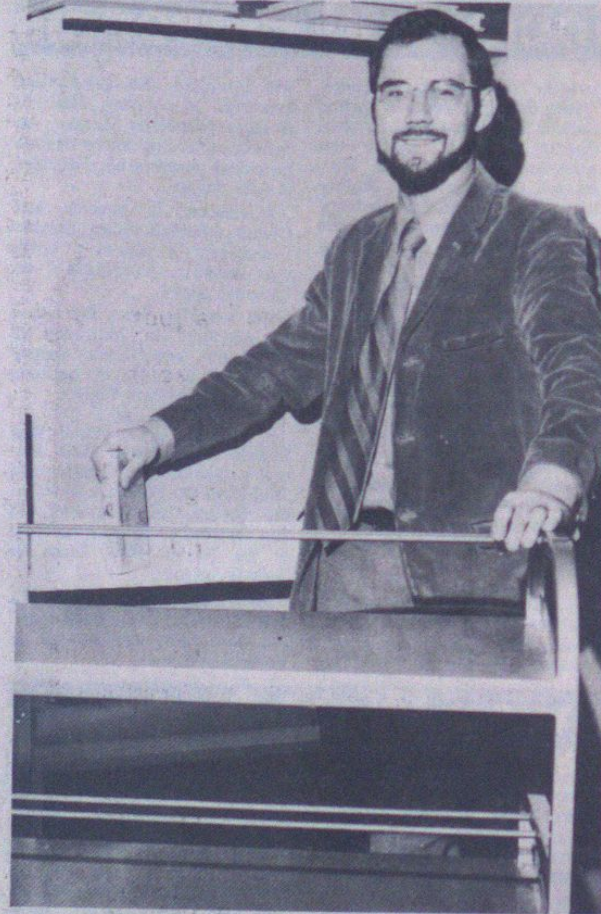
(2) A copy of the Library's "The Design of the Small Public Library." It served well in the planning stages, and with the library foundation already in, that good and faithful servant can be put to rest, and if we've ignored its advice in certain sections, it can be nearby to haunt us with an "I told you so!"

(3) A collection (although very selectively small) of the librarian's most delightfully forgettable jokes, such as the shoe factory fire that resulted in the loss of 2,000 soles, it being started by a heel.

(4) A gold plague - I mean - plaque containing the world's best-worst library joke, the one about the library being the biggest building in town because it has the most stories.

13/11/74
MATTHEW SCHOLTZ

Page 8 THE TILLSONBURG NEWS November 11, 1974

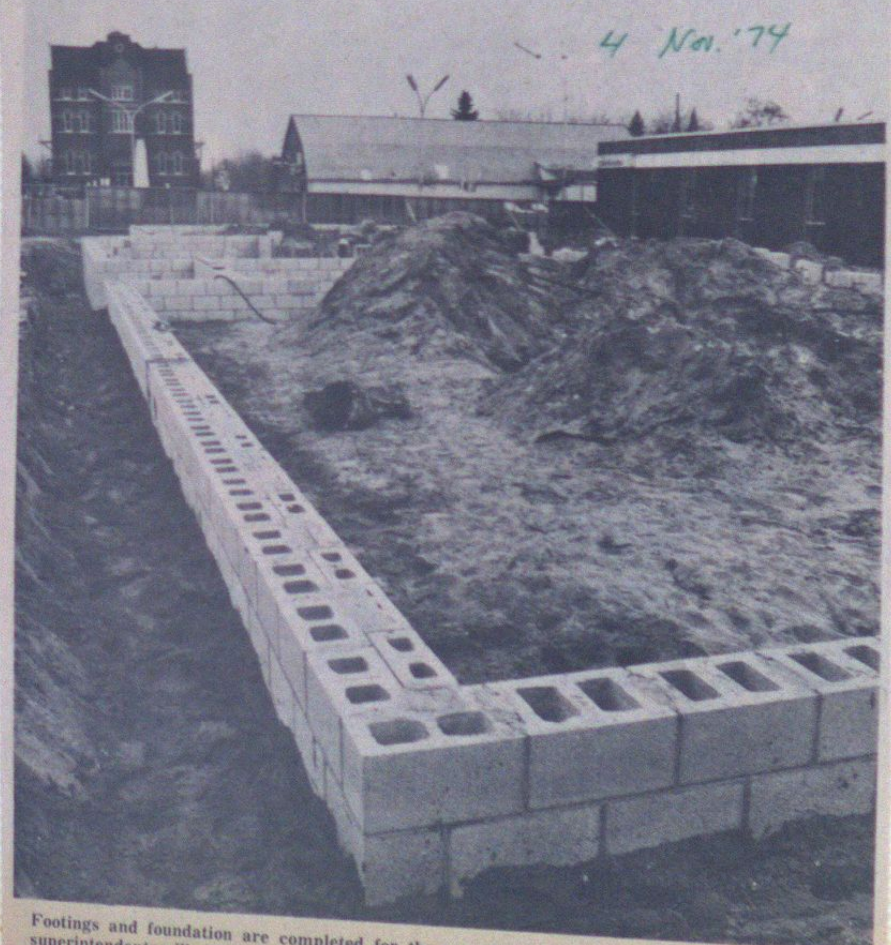


Remember those books you took out on long, penalty-free loan sometime during the summer, to cut down the number of volumes to be moved when the library moved? Well, librarian Matt Scholtz now says they're ready to get them back...in fact he's a little concerned that a lot aren't back yet. As you can see, there is still a little shelf space in the temporary library quarters in the basement of the Post Office, and the library staff would like to fill those shelves with the returned books that people bring back, to complete a successful long-loan project.

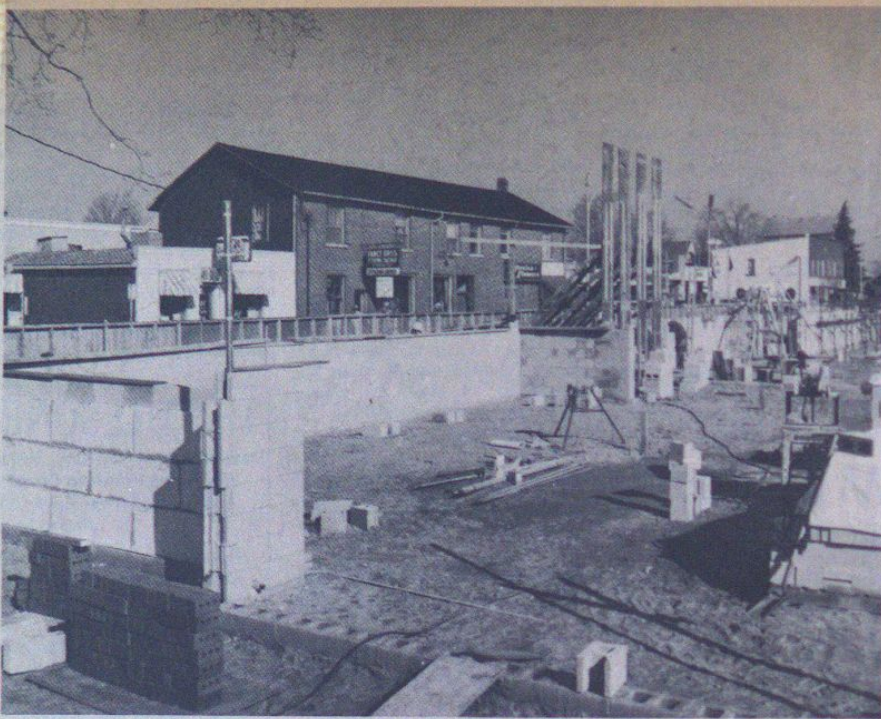


Remembrance Day service saw wreaths laid by 24 organizations and individuals, a parade of Legion members and music by the Glendale High School band. At top, Austin Mills and John French

sound Last Post which preceded the observance of two minutes of silence in respect to Canada's war dead. Lower photo is a general view, taken from the second storey of the Town Hall.

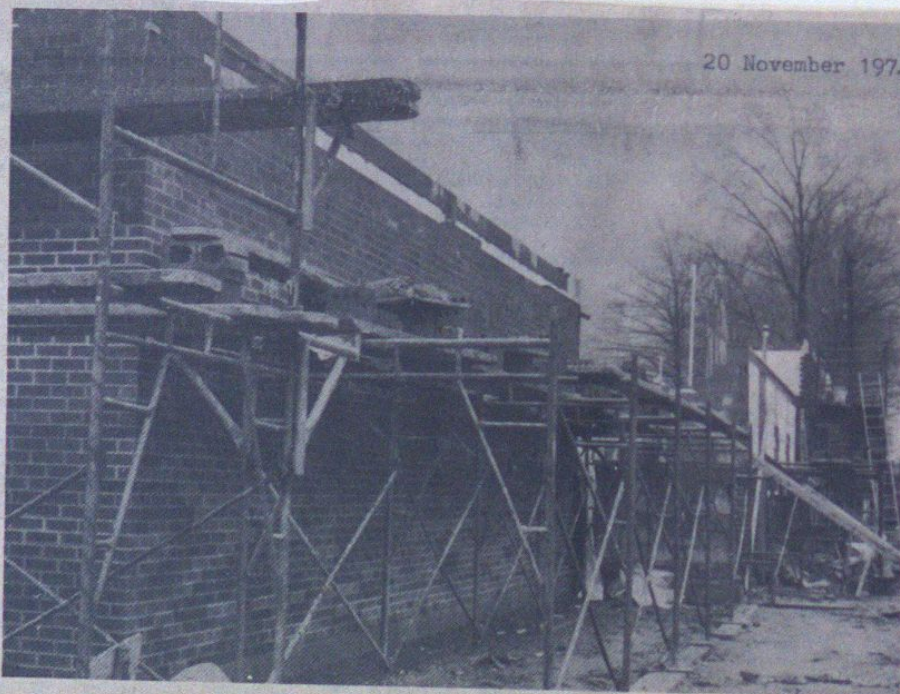


Footings and foundation are completed for the new Tillsonburg Public Library and sidewalk superintendents will soon be able to see walls of the building rising from behind the barriers.



Good building weather has contributed to rapid progress on the new Public Library building, and the wall will soon be showing up above the barricades. Exterior will be of brown brick.

11 November 1974



If you just can't picture this stack of bricks, scaffolding, and other construction paraphernalia as a brand-new and beautiful Tillsonburg Public Library, you can always walk one building south, and look at the drawing in the window there. The similarity is supposed to increase from now through Spring, until bricks and building are identical sometime in June.



8 9 December 1974

A major step in the construction of the new Tillsonburg Public Library was made on Friday, with the installation of the steel beams. The construction, by Gilvesy Construction of Tillsonburg, is proceeding according to schedule and the new library facility should be opened some time in late Spring of 1975.

13 Dec. '74



This structure, now going up between the new library building and the bank next door, is bringing a lot of questions, reports Tillsonburg librarian Matt Scholtz. He says that people don't know exactly what the frame, separated from everything else, is for. Actually, it is the frame for a covered walkway that will run along the front of the library, from the parking lot to Broadway. It is part of the library construction job that should finish in late Spring.

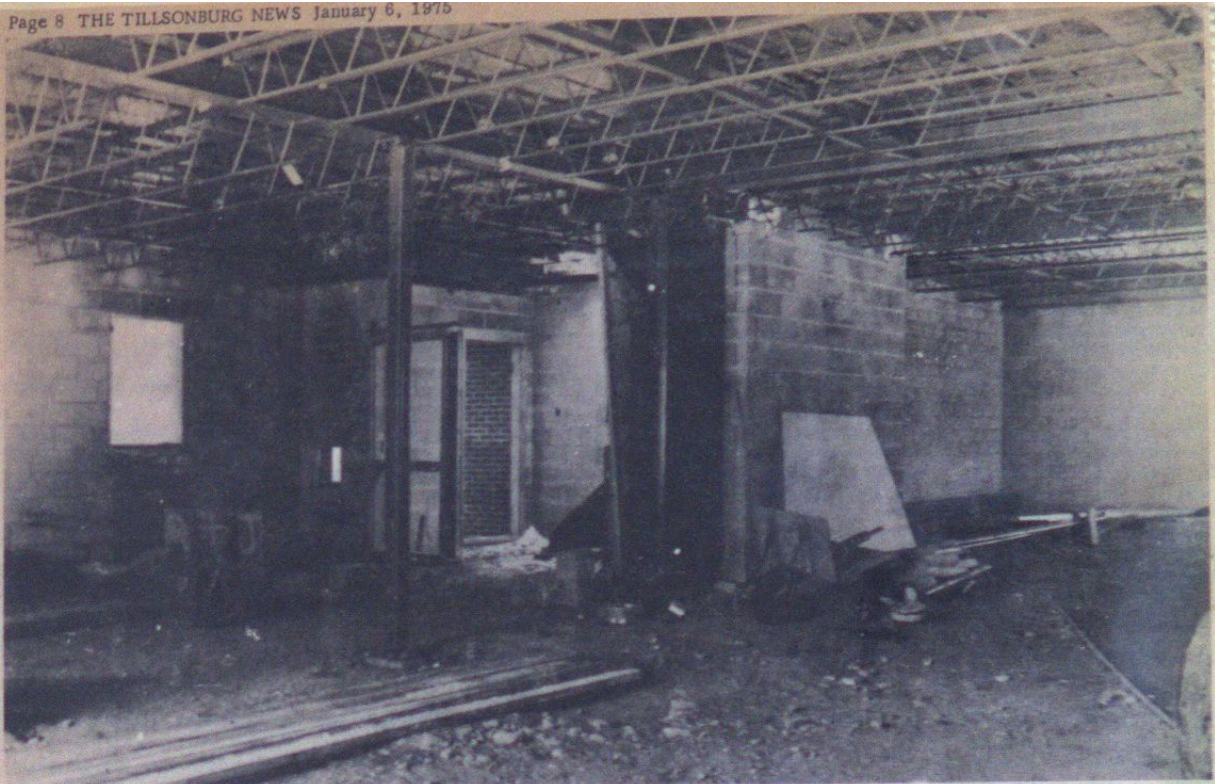


20 December 1974

The Tillsonburg Kinette club, as a part of their donation to the new Tillsonburg Public Library, have donated this junior department card catalogue. The catalogue is purchased from the total donation of \$2,500 by the club. Shown making the presentation is Kinette Suzanne Bamford, chairperson of the library committee. Receiving the catalogue is librarian Matt Scholtz.

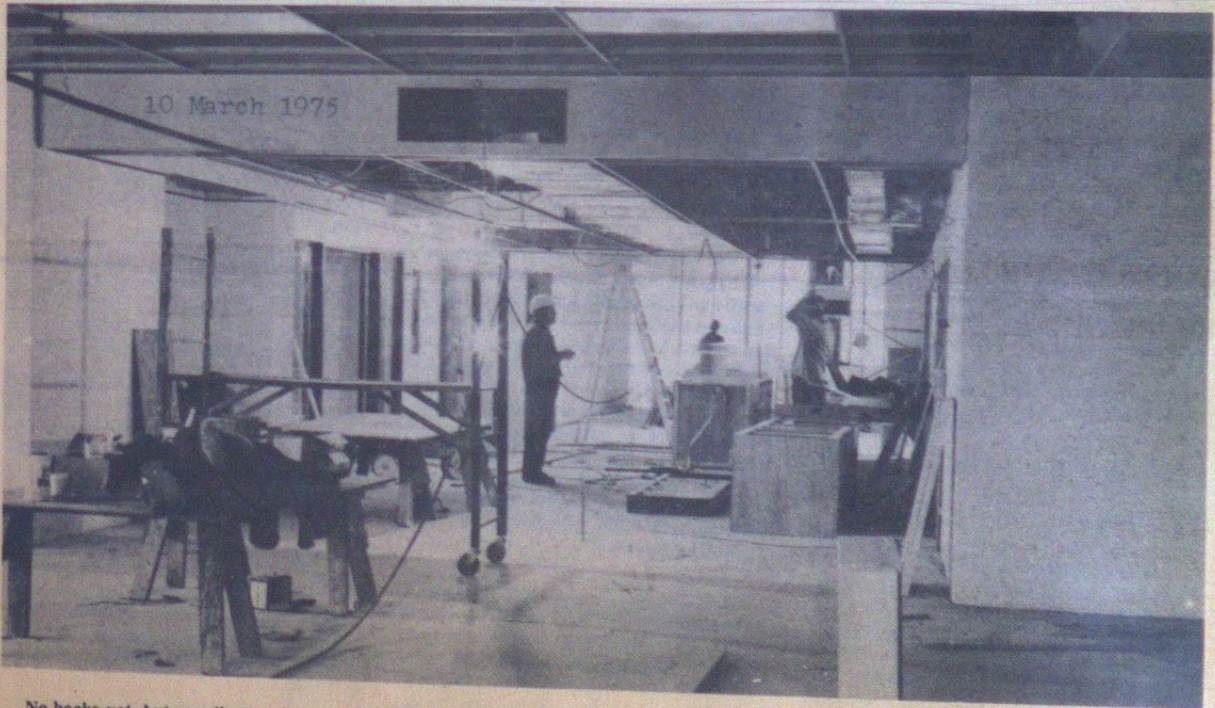


Where ladders now stand, there will be bookshelves. Where workmen walk, there will be library patrons. In fact, upon completion, the new Tillsonburg Public Library will look considerably more civilized than it does right now. None the less, Tillsonburg librarian Matt Scholtz reports that construction of the new facility is ahead of schedule. The library will open sometime this Spring.



NO BOOKS—It will be some months before the new public library is ready to house its thousands of volumes, but work is going ahead on schedule and the shape of various departments is becoming evident. A mild December has been a help to Gilvesy Construction

Ltd., general contractors. In the interim, the library is located satisfactorily in the basement of the Federal Building. This view looks towards the northeast corner.



No books yet, but excellent progress is being made at the new Tillsonburg Public Library and according to Paul DeCloeet, superintendent for Gilvesy Construction Ltd., work is well ahead of schedule. Interior walls are mostly finished, wiring is

being completed and ceiling tiles installed. First impression received is one of ample space. Another few weeks should see Librarian Matt Scholtz lugging books back across the street.

Longer loans to reduce book move

17 March
1975

The Tillsonburg Public Library will be handing out books for an indefinite period of time, as their long-loan program begins April 1. That program, which sees library patrons taking books out for much longer than the standard two-week period, is being used to reduce the number of books to be moved when the TPL moves to its new quarters in the brand-new library facility.

The library is currently housed in the basement of the Federal Building.

The long loan idea was also employed last summer and fall, to cut down on books to be moved from the old TPL to the temporary home, and Tillsonburg librarian Matt Scholtz said that it helped a great deal.

The move back to the new library, where construction is proceeding ahead of schedule, will be easier this time around. In the fall, all books were boxed, and carted in a town of Tillsonburg truck. This time, the books will be on special shelves, to eliminate packing, and carried in a Book-mobile on loan from the county.

26 March 1975

Shelves delay library work

A delay in delivery of shelving will put back the opening of the new Tillsonburg library until the end of May.

It had been hoped to open the new building by the end of April, but the suppliers cannot deliver the shelves until the middle of May.

Librarian Matt Scholtz said that the extended loans of library books will now also be delayed from the first of April until the middle of the month. The longer loans, which means books will be borrowed from the temporary quarters in the post office building and returned when the new library opens, are expected to help considerably in reducing the moving problems.

24 March 1975



TOWN OF TILLSONBURG

TILLSONBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY

TENDER

Tenders will be received by the undersigned until 5 p.m. April 9, 1975 for supply of Library furniture and equipment.

Tender forms and specifications may be obtained from the Tillsonburg Public Library.

Tender submissions may be in part or in full and the lowest or any tender may not necessarily be accepted.

K. E. Holland, Secretary
Tillsonburg Public Library
Town Hall
Tillsonburg, Ont.

Preparing for move

16 April 1975

Long library loans

The Tillsonburg Public Library is again promoting a program of extended book loans, to empty the shelves as much as possible, prior to moving into the new T.P.L., now almost completed.

The extended loan program allows anyone to borrow a book, unfined, from now until June 1. The program is ideal for slow readers, or borrowers of large books.

Chief Librarian Matt Scholtz encourages everyone to take advantage of this program. He notes that 3,000 books were taken out on long loan in late summer, when the library moved to its temporary quarters in the federal building.

Only three of those 3,000 books were not returned. They've been smuggled out of town.

He hopes that as many books will be long-loaned this time around, as well.

The return to the old site, on which stands the spanking new building, will probably come in the near future. Mr. Scholtz says that all interior work on the building will be finished next Tuesday, and the only step remaining before moving in is the installation of the shelves.

Those shelves are reported to be in London.