

UPFRONT

INSHORT

Wellesley supports motion to re-establish Environmental Fund

Wellesley Council has agreed to support the Municipality of Leamington in its quest to re-establish the Environmental Compensation Fund.

The provincial fund, originally administered through the Ministry of Environment, assisted municipalities in cleaning up oil spills when costs against the person causing a spill could not be recovered.

Leamington maintains that the discontinuance of the fund has placed an "unfair and onerous burden on a municipality" that has exhausted all other means of recovering costs.

Council voted to support the motion despite opposition from Mayor Doug Bergman. Bergman said he was concerned that inclusion in the scheme might force the township to be on the hook for cleaning up spills that are unlikely to occur in Wellesley.

Serious accident sends one to Hamilton

As a result of a single-vehicle collision in the early hours of Sept. 5, a 26-year-old Elmira resident was airlifted to Hamilton General Hospital where he is currently listed in serious condition.

The accident occurred at 1:55 a.m., when the lone male driver was travelling north on Queen St. in Elmira, and after failing to stop at the intersection with Wyatt Ave. E., collided with a tree on the north side of Wyatt. The vehicle was demolished in the crash and the driver had to be extricated by Elmira firefighters. Alcohol and speed were factors in this accident.

Police are continuing the investigation into this incident and any witnesses are asked to call Cst. Richard Kiss of the traffic branch at 570-3000, X857.

Shantz Station gas station robbed

The Pioneer Gas station at 2900 Victoria St. N. in Woolwich Township was robbed Sept. 3 by an unknown suspect armed with a hunting knife.

The male suspect, described as in his 20s or 30s, white, 5'7", heavy-built, with short dark curly hair, a bushy beard and wearing dark blue jeans and a long-sleeved green sweatshirt, fled the scene on foot heading towards Shantz Station Road. There were no injuries reported in the incident, and police from the Waterloo detachment are continuing their investigation.

Tree-planting ceremony for Paul Schweitzer

Wellesley council will hold a tree planting ceremony on Oct. 6 to commemorate former councillor Paul Schweitzer.

Schweitzer died of cancer on June 12, 2002.

Members of the public are invited to attend the ceremony at the Hawkesville Community Centre at 5:30 p.m.



HUGO RODRIGUES

HE'S HOOKED Adrian Hoad-Reddick got hooked on computers and literacy long ago, the result of which are a graduate degree in education and several Web sites, including BookHooks.com.

Do books have you hooked?

St. John's-Kilmarnock teacher goes live with book report publishing site

By Hugo Rodrigues
OBSERVER STAFF

No two people read the same book. — Edmund Wilson

Children from around the world can now share in that view of literature, thanks to a new Web site created by an Elora teacher where students can self-publish their opinions on the latest book they've read.

The site, BookHooks.com, is a creation of Adrian Hoad-Reddick, a teacher at St. John's-Kilmarnock private school in Breslau where a recent sabbatical from teaching allowed him to start his own Internet consulting company and fully realize the project he started when completing his Masters in Education in Toronto.

"I have a very strange mixture of the love for the computer and the English teacher-poet, and this combination has

served me very well," admitted Hoad-Reddick from his home in Elora, where he manages the Web site when not teaching English in Breslau. "My love of books and my love of allowing kids to publish and respond to literature was part of my impetus to program this."

The site, which evolved from a library system program that allowed users to tag their thoughts onto catalog entries to a full-fledged Web site allowing young authors to publish illustrated book reviews, was borne out of the challenge facing his daughter in writing five book reports for a Grade 2 assignment.

Now, a reader at any age level from Kindergarten through to Grade 12 can use the site to motivate themselves towards completing a well-structured report on whatever book they've just read.

Say a student has just finished reading Tolkein's *The two*

towers. Step one, explained Hoad-Reddick, would be to look at the resources on the site compiled with the help of Guelph author Jean Mills that centre around writing structure and inspiration.

Then, the author would head over to the 'write a report' section, where a form allows them to input their report on-screen. Writer's block? A click on the 'get a question' link, and selecting 'fantasy' from the genre list that appears and instantly an inspiring question appears — such as "What makes the characters in the novel belong to a fantasy story? What 'powers' or unusual characteristics do they possess that make them unique to this fantasy world?" Once completed, some flair can be added to the report by posting an image that goes with the book or the report, using step-by-step guidelines.

Once a report has been submitted, Hoad-Reddick said he

receives an email notifying him of the new entry, and requesting his approval of the written work. After a brief run-through of the submitted work he posts it to the site for all to see.

Hoad-Reddick admitted the most popular referral to the site was from people looking to lift reports from the archive, but that the best use of the site and the best feedback he has received are from educators, parents and young readers around the world who've complemented him on the innovative method of allowing students to publish their thoughts.

Since the site started in May he has accumulated 260 reports, and has set a target for himself of accumulating up to 10,000 reports before the end of the school year — an attainable goal as there are already 70 registered teachers referring their students to the site and the school year is barely underway.



David Antebi,
Pharmacist & Owner

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