



Photo by Michele Weisz

Janna Colton in her favourite section of the Belleville Public Library Tuesday. Colton has been working at the library for 38 years. She is a library technician and works predominantly in the children's section, where she also reads to the children weekly.

## Sharing her passion for the written word

### Planning retirement after 40 years at the library

By Michele Weisz

A lot of things have changed at the Belleville Public Library since 1977. The emergence of the Internet, the introduction of a computerized cataloguing system and its address, to name a few. But one thing has not changed - Janna Colton's passion for literature and children.

Colton is just what one might imagine a children's library technician to be. She is bubbly and friendly with a warm smile. Her "signature passion colour" is purple, and she has an encyclopaedic knowledge of children's literature. Her demeanour makes her seem far younger than her years.

Colton has worked, in some form or another, for the Belleville library for 38 years.

She has always had a love of books and was a voracious reader as a child. "I inhaled them," she says. Her love af-

fair with the library began when she was just 12 years old. She began helping at the King George Public School library in grade seven as part of the library club. She was hooked. "It was a lot of fun being around the books," Colton says. She continued to work at the library throughout middle and high school. After high school, rather than studying to become a teacher, Colton made the decision to study library techniques at Sheridan College in Oakville, Ont.

During her first year at college, she received a grant enabling her to do an inventory of the books at the Belleville library during her summer break. After graduating, rather than finding work in a big city, she chose to come home to Belleville. She asked the CEO of the Belleville Public Library if there were any job opportunities. She was hired on the spot as a part time library technician. "And I never left," she says.

When Colton began at the library she worked in the catalogue and inventory department. All the cataloguing was done by hand. Even though the library now uses a computer system, Colton's memory of children's titles and authors is unsurpassed, as is her knack for knowing their location. "If you can't find it on

the shelf, Janna can find it," says technical services clerk Marie Lyons. "She can find the most obscure stuff - I think she hides them."

One of the biggest changes at the Belleville library was the introduction of the Internet. "I can remember when they first started talking about the Internet coming into the libraries, that libraries were going to become nonexistent. Everybody was on tenterhooks just waiting to see the libraries go out because of it. That never happened because it's an enhancement of our services."

Colton had taken a children's literature course at college and has had her hand in the children's youth and reader's services department of the library ever since. She played an integral part in securing a special children's room when the library relocated to its present location. She also helped oversee its playful decor. Her concern for the library and the children has not gone unnoticed. "Janna is thoughtful, caring, and considerate and does a great job... Her knowledge and experience is an incredible asset to our organization," says Trevor Pross, the Library's CEO.

While Colton's enthusiasm for books is palpable, working with children is her

true passion. She reads stories to children every week at the library. Her eyes light up when she discusses her long-time work with them. "I love the kids. There's nothing like working with them. I love reading to them," she says.

When asked if she regrets not becoming a teacher, her reply is simple. "I don't regret not becoming a teacher because I'm always teaching here. You're always teaching the kids about books and introducing them to different things," she says.

The children are just as enthusiastic about Colton and her influence on them is no different than that of a teacher. Colton tells the story of a well-dressed gentleman who came into the library 10 years ago. When he saw Colton, he thanked her. He went on to explain that he met Colton when his class came to the library for a book talk. He was not an avid reader but Colton convinced him to try. He went on to say that he continued to read and to study hard and that Colton played a part in his eventually becoming a lawyer.

"That's a real tribute to the work that we do. We are teaching, just not in a classroom," Colton says.

Working with children touches ev-

ery aspect of Colton's life. When she is not working at the library or working with Heritage Belleville, Colton writes and performs puppet shows. Her shows utilize historical characters and architecture along with community folklore to teach children about history and life lessons. She even has a Pierre Elliott Trudeau puppet. She travels with her puppets to different schools and festivals in the surrounding communities. She is a member of the Ontario Puppetry Association.

Colton says she has three passions in her life: her 20-year-old daughter, teaching children about books and historical landmarks in Belleville.

Colton says she will retire after 40 years at the library. She will continue raising her daughter. She will stay on with her work with Belleville Heritage Society, and she will continue to perform her puppet shows.

With a little hint of sadness in her voice, Colton says that she will miss the children's section of the Belleville Public Library. Then one of her colleagues walks by and asks Colton about a book. Her sadness is immediately replaced by an infectious smile as she talks about one of the things she loves best.

## Dumpster Divas don't like the waste

By Joel Watson

Buy new, throw away, repeat. This is the common practice for most people nowadays, but not for the likes of the Dumpster Diva Collective.

The Dumpster Diva's collective is a growing group of people that encourage

others to make environmentally friendly lifestyle choices. One of the main focuses of the collective is to promote the purchase of locally made or previously worn clothing and accessories.

"It's pretty easy to envision the mountain of clothing that we're buried under when you look at all the thrift stores and closets," said dumpster divas member and co-founder Peter Paylor. "Part of it is just to promote the idea of staying away from the mall, that we have enough stuff and that we don't need to go out and buy more clothing."

The core group members include Ingrid Tiffe, Marina Boretski, Lindy Powell, Holly Fox, Chantal Fraser, Paula Brooks, Lisa Morris and Jessica Wheeler. Each member does some sort of fashionable recycling, such as making jewelry from found pieces of metal and old tires, selling vintage or pre-worn clothing, and sewing silk ties to make pillows and vests.

The overall message of recycling and repurposing the collective pushes can apply to everyone.

"It's not about women necessarily, you know? It could be, just the whole fact that you get the whole concept of recycling

or the support of buying local," said co-founder Morris. "It started with a group of women because that was who I knew."

The collective originally began with an idea for a fashion show called the Dumpster Divas that was organized as a fundraiser. Art/Worth, which was a private project where community groups came together to collaborate on art projects. The show was to feature women wearing nothing but recycled and repurposed clothing. However the Art/Worth project folded and the fashion show never happened.

"The original idea was just about the fashion show," said Paylor. "The women already began discussions and decided that we'll just keep it together, because this is a group of women who all recycle and repurpose fashion and accessories."

After three years, since the failed fashion show, the collective has begun to grow larger, with new members joining on a daily basis. Morris and Paylor are working on making the web page more accessible to its members.

"It's an organic thing so it is always evolving," explained Paylor. "Over the last three years there are now so many people. I mean, this just started by people we knew, and then, of course, you have a show or you do something and it gets noticed."

The Dumpster Diva Collective is now working on their annual Garbage Bag Ball. The event, which takes place April 25, corresponds with the Green Task Force's Trash Bash. The ball helps promote this lifestyle and raises money for local organizations.



Photo by Joel Watson

Lisa Morris, one of the original members of the Dumpster Diva Collective, displays some of her homemade necklaces. The necklaces are made from recycled materials that consist of old inner tubes and vintage decorations.

## Pond hockey comes to Batawa

By Sarra Lalonde

Batawa is hosting its fourth annual Pond Hockey Classic for CFB Trenton this weekend, Jan. 23-25.

Jeff Moorhouse and Rod Moore started this event four years ago, and have continued with it ever since. They started it as an event for the squadron fun days and as a way to raise money for the Military Families Funds. Moore, was at the base when they decided to start it from scratch, says Moorhouse.

This idea has been steadily expanded each year to now include a fundraising dinner, four rinks, 32 teams and two benefiting charities, the TMH Foundation and Soldier On.

The Soldier On Foundation receives 50 per cent of the proceeds from the event, and the Trenton Memorial Hospital Foundation receives the other 50 per cent.

Most teams are military, but they also have civilian teams who play. In past years, they were mostly military teams, and a lower number of civilian teams. Last year, however, they had more civilian teams than military teams.

For the tournament, maximum 32 teams, four on four, pond hockey rules, no goalies, each team is guaranteed three, 30 minute games, top eight teams advance to the sudden death playoffs, all games outdoor, lighting system in place for night games.

For the dinner being held on Jan. 23, tickets are \$60 each. Comedian Dave Hemstad will MC, and special guests Sgt. Chris Downey and guest singer Francine Leclair will be there, along with some great food.

This year, there are 30 teams of eight, 150-dinner guests for Friday night's dinner, 60 volunteers plus the many spectators who will attend.

Over the last three years, they have raised over \$80,000.

"Hopefully \$35,000 to -40,000 this year," says Moorhouse.