

# IBR Urban Guidelines presented - open house March 27th

by Michelle Minnoch

Moiz Behar, lead consultant, gave council an update on the Innisfil Beach Road Urban Design Study on Wednesday night. In 2005, the town retained MBPD to undertake an Urban Design study of the Alcona area.

The report, which can be obtained on the town's website under Committee of the Whole agenda February 28th, emphasizes the public streetscape, including the private buildings and landscaping of the area. The policy sets out requirements for the design of subdivisions, buildings, parking, land-

scaping, signage and the gateway features.

"We intend to build a very nice streetscape," he said.

There is an emphasis on the lake, and increased awareness is brought forward to the Innisfil Beach Road's connection to the Lake, including improved access to the lake, and a nautical theme throughout Alcona.

Behar said the streetscape will be pedestrian oriented, and will include medians with trees, walkways and biking.

It has been estimated that planted medians can occur 600 – 700

metres between Jans Blvd. and the 25th Side Road.

The report outlines the focal points of the study, which include the 20th Side Road to Jans Blvd., Jans Blvd. to the 25th Side Road, and the 25th Side Road to Lake Simcoe.

Behar said at these focal points should be gateway features to give areas their special identity.

Recommendations include a concept for an Innisfil Town Square, which will be located in the area of the Lakeshore Library Branch.

The report states there are few

streets with boulevard trees planted, and the overhead hydro wires will present a challenge. While tree planting is a major component of the streetscape, where there are overhead wires it is suggested low height, small ornamental trees be planted.

The report suggests public transit would provide 'significant benefits'. It suggests a public transit line along Innisfil Beach Road, which could eventually provide connections to the GO transit terminal at Hwy. 400.

Behar said buildings should have a specific height requirement

and certain edges had to be defined. The report suggests buildings on Innisfil Beach Road should have appropriate architectural details and low maintenance materials – buildings should be mixed use, and residential units could be located above commercial uses. It is also suggested the building entrances should be visible and accessible to the road, and that commercial building entrances are pedestrian friendly.

There will be a public Open House regarding the Innisfil Beach Road Urban Design Guidelines on Tuesday, March 27th.

# Innisfil Public Library introduces Knowledge Ontario

by Michelle Minnoch

The Lakeshore Branch of the Innisfil Public Library held a kick off to their new resource based service, Knowledge Ontario on Wednesday, February 14th.

"We are used to the people coming into the library," said Chief Librarian Susan Downs. "This is a resource that can be used at the library or at home, and can be used by people of all ages."

Knowledge Ontario is a group of collected resources in which people can access

millions of articles from sources including newspapers, magazines, encyclopedias, reference books, and so much more.

Librarian Mandy Pethick, who outlined the program, said all people have to do is go onto the Innisfil Public Library website ([www.innisfil.library.on.ca](http://www.innisfil.library.on.ca)) and click on the Knowledge Ontario tab.

"People will have access to millions of articles they would otherwise not have access to," she said. "It's all

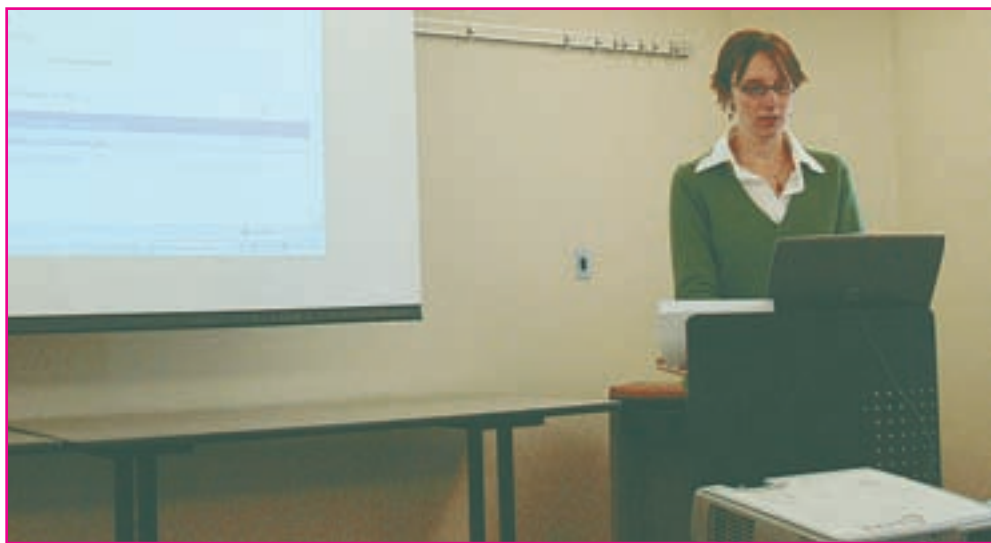
in a database and it's easy for people to use."

Those who are in the Knowledge Ontario section of the website can use a basic word search to find the materials they are looking for. There is also a section for more search options, where complete articles can be viewed.

Articles can be printed, downloaded or emailed.

Knowledge Ontario will give students access to millions of pieces of information.

"This is a great tool for students working on a pro-



Mandy Pethick gave a demonstration of Knowledge Ontario.

photo by Michelle Minnoch

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ject," said Pethick, saying high school and students in grades 6 – 8 will benefit from the service.

For the younger students, in grades 1 – 5, Knowledge Ontario has a section called Kids Info Bits. This area displays topics, as well as pictures, in order for younger students to find information at their level. In this section, children can look at reference material, magazines, newspapers, maps/flags/seals, charts/graphs, and images.

Downs said the biggest change is that the library is now expanding their resources. "This is very exciting for Innisfil," she said. "Staff is here to help people find a way through

this, and we also have the Ask a Librarian online feature." Downs said having municipal barriers when it comes to libraries is very difficult, and Knowledge Ontario side steps those issues.

People who have been set up with an Innisfil Library card also have been given a password. The password is needed to enter into Knowledge Ontario. Those who do not remember their password can go to or call their local library for the information.

This is the first step of many for the Innisfil Public Library system in regards to this project; Our Ontario, History Ontario, Video Ontario, Teach Ontario, and

more will be coming as the next phase of the project.

"This is a tremendous asset for us," acknowledged Downs. "We are putting the emphasis on resources, and certainly this will be a huge benefit to our residents."

Some of the available online resources through Knowledge Ontario include Canadian Periodicals, Info Trac Students, Kids Info Bits, National Newspaper Index, Gale Virtual Reference Library, Academic One File, Health and Wellness Resource Centre, and General Reference Centre.

For more information, visit or call your local branch of the Innisfil Public Library.

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