

The Friends of the Guelph Public Library Book Sale Report – 2023

The annual book sale is the major fund-raising activity of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library. Income from the book sale is used to support a wide variety of library activities and programs ranging from “books for babies” to programming like our “Open Minds” Speaker’s series for adults ... and much, much more.

Through 14 annual book sales the Friends have raised an astonishing **$1,000,000.00** – one book at a time - and with hundreds of volunteers contributing thousands of hours to each sale. The 2023 sale involved more than 230 volunteers.

The book sale has been a much-anticipated annual community event, held every autumn since 2007 with the exception of 2020 and 2021 during Covid. In 2022, the post-Covid space we were offered for the sale was much smaller than the large warehouse we had grown accustomed to using. In 2023, for the first time, we held the sale in September instead of the end of October, our usual sale weekend. Despite plentiful community donations prior to the sale, we feel that the vastly reduced space has resulted in lower attendance, sales, and annual revenue over the past two sales than during the pre-Covid years. This year, faced with a further reduction of space, and another early Fall sale, we have begun conducting a city-wide search for a more suitable venue for the 2024 sale.

Volunteers and others are often asked about what happens to the books which we don't keep or cannot sell. In 2023 we worked harder than ever to reduce and divert from landfill items that were unacceptable for sale. Before the sale we found several homes - including through a number of local charities - for gently used books. (See impressive list, next page.) Afterwards, most of the unsold books and media were packed up for either Better World Books or Value Village where we were paid by their FUNDrive Program. These strategies produced a big win for the book-sale - financially and environmentally.



A final note. On the Friday of the sale, we invited those who were working a double shift to enjoy a slice of pizza and lemonade. One of our long-standing volunteers appeared at the kitchen table with an iced chocolate cake (strawberry filling), enough for 30 people. Delicious as it was, it was the wording in the icing which blew us all away. It said:

Essentials for a very Successful Giant Book Sale:
Vision, Planning, Organization, Commitment, Heart, Trust,
Leaders, Perseverance, Volunteers, Community Support, Goals.

I am grateful to the FGPL Executive Board, the Book Sale Core Steering Committee and its working groups for always having my back and for offering sound advice and assistance. All of our volunteers contributed to the success of the sale and each deserves my thanks and gratitude.

Submitted by: May Goodwin, Chair/Coordinator, 2023 Book Sale Committee.

Committee Members: Lynn Allan, Linda Kearns, Susan Kerrigan, Bea Long, Kathy MacLean, Sue Merritt, Val Morse, Laura Pinarello, Nancy Ryan, Tara Signorelli, Brenda Walton, Sandi Wilkes.

Working groups are comprised of members of the Committee with the additional vital support of: Judith Renaud, Jacki Mieczaniac, Regan Avis, Christine Hassan, Paul Young, Lisa Cunningham, Jessica Barrie, Jennifer Duncan, Kevin Orr and Francine Poissant.



Approximately 4000+ books (and other media) enjoyed a second life with these organizations.

- Belize charity for children
- Children's Reading Room
- Eden Mills Book Sale
- Guelph Master Gardeners
- Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition
- Guelph Tool Library
- Guelph-Wellington Immigrant Services
- Grace Gardens
- Hamilton Wentworth Detention Centre
- Maplehurst Correctional Complex
- Royal City Mission
- St Joe's Hospital
- United for Literacy
- Vanier Centre for Women
- Wyndham House (youth services)

Book Sale Facts

2012	4,474 shoppers*		55,213 items for sale	65% sold
2013	5,950 shoppers		75,284 items for sale	70% sold
2014	7000 shoppers		78,390 items for sale	79% sold
2015	7725 shoppers		107,365 items for sale	72% sold
2016	7735 shoppers		97,366 items for sale	80% sold
2017	7073 shoppers	275 Volunteers	100,772 items for sale	78% sold
2018	7000 shoppers	235 Volunteers	102,890 items for sale	76% sold
2019	8336 shoppers	275 Volunteers	99,421 items for sale	81% sold
2020 & 2021	*Covid-19 Pandemic*	****No Book Sale****		
2022	3614 shoppers	220 volunteers	53,743 items for sale	77% sold
2023	3,497 shoppers	230 volunteers	67,291 items for sale	54% sold

** The number of shoppers does not include the volunteers' pre-sale appreciation event.*

Year	Gross Revenue	Expenses	Net Revenue	Venue
2007	$ 10,253.00	$ 1,966.00	$ 8,288.00	Old Quebec St. Mall
2008	$ 16,235.00	$ 4,447,00	$ 11,788.00	Old Quebec St. Mall
2009	$ 21,439.00	$ 3,174.00	$ 18,265.00	160 Wyndham St.N.
2010	$ 27,660.00	$ 3,662.00	$ 23,998.00	Fastforms, Massey Rd
2011	$ 42,201.00	$ 3,697.00	$ 38,504.00	Fastforms, Massey Rd
2012	$ 67,358.00	$ 7,729.00	$ 59,628.00	Fastforms, Massey Rd
2013	$ 88,173.00	$ 7,003.00	$ 81,169.00	Fastforms, Massey Rd
2014	$100,466.00	$ 8,981.00	$ 91,485.00	White Rose, Edinburgh Rd
2015	$119,663.00	$ 9,113.00	$110,550.00	Home Hardware, Speedvale
2016	$121,043.00	$16,592.00	$104,451.00	Woods Facility, Huron St.
2017	$121,140.00	$18,619.00	$102,521.00	Woods Facility, Huron St.
2018	$128,682.00	$15,325.00	$112,375.00	Woods Facility, Huron St.
2019	$134,613.00	$17,550.00	$117,063.00	Woods Facility, Huron St.
2020 & 2021	*Covid-19 Pandemic. No Book Sale.*			
2022*	$ 68,403.00	$16,787.00	$ 51,616.00	Woods Facility, Huron St.
2023*	$ 79,348.00	$14,964.00	$ 64,384.00	Woods Facility, Huron St.

**2022 & 2023 space was one-third area of pre-Covid venues, with the resulting limited shopper access and sales.*