It is with great pleasure that I present the Chair's report for the Friends of the Guelph Public Library. Over the past year, our organization has continued to uphold its mission of supporting and enriching the resources and programs of the Guelph Public Library and specifically the new Central Library. We have remained dedicated to our cause and have achieved significant milestones.

New Central Library Ground Breaking Ceremony:

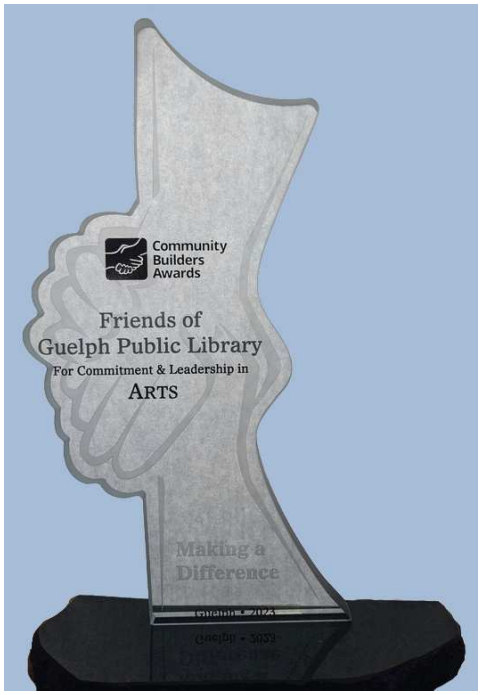
In June the community was invited to join the City and Public Library at a ground breaking ceremony on Baker St. Finally, after all these years, we were moving ahead with a new Central Library.



“Guelph Today” Community Builders Award:

In July of 2023, May Goodwin and I were invited to a gala presentation of the awards at the Sugo-on-Surrey restaurant and had an opportunity to meet all the other award winners. It was a fun event. We received the award for 20 years of promoting community literacy through our annual book sales and support of public library programs.







Cheque presentation to the Guelph Public Library:

In September we invited our “Friends“ community to a cheque presentation at the Book Sale site on Huron St. Together we presented a comically large cheque to the Guelph Public Library for **$1,000,000.00**.





Upcoming events: Speaker Series

May 1: Sharon Hampson from Sharon, Lois and Bram.
May 22: Kevin Callan the Happy Camper
May 29: Tom Wilson from Junkhouse, Blackie and the Rodeo Kings, and Lee Harvey Osmond.



Other FGPL Programming:

"Born to Read"



The **Born to Read** initiative was created in 2017, in partnership between the Guelph Public Library and the Guelph General Hospital. Funded in part by the Friends of the Guelph Public Library, this initiative strives to introduce literacy to all infants born in Guelph. When infants are exposed to regular early literacy experiences, they develop essential pre-reading skills which act as building blocks for when children learn to read.



Farewell to Four Friends:

I would like to thank Mary Mulholland, Paul Young and Anne Mackay and the former Chief Librarian Steve Kraft for their tireless service to the Friends of the Guelph Public Library Executive. We are going to miss their cheer, warmth and encouragement. Thank you all.







Thank you from the 2023-24 FGPL Executive Team:

(Back row) Steve Kraft, Paul Young, Lisa Cunningham, Ian Findlay, Bang Ly, Tara Signorelli May Goodwin, (Front row) Kathy MacLean, Mary Mulholland, James Gordon, Linda Kearns, May Goodwin, Nancy Ryan, Anne MacKay

