

## **The Friends of the Guelph Public Library Book Sale Report 2024 presented at 2025 AGM**

The Annual book Sale is the major fund-raising activity of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library. Income from the book sales is used annually to support a wide variety of library programs such as 'Born to Read', purchase of Botley Code Robots, e.g., to programming like our 'Open Minds' speakers' series for adults ... and much, much more. Additionally, the Friends made a \$1,000,000 gift to the Library in 2022 which is being held until the new Library is closer to completion. The ability to make these gifts comes from the work and effort of hundreds of volunteers contributing thousands of hours to each book sale. This is an astonishing outcome from selling books - one at a time!

2024 was the year when the Book Sale was in real jeopardy. We learned early in the year that the space we had occupied at Huron Street was no longer available which resulted in an exhaustive search to find a new location. This involved a barrage of emails, recruitment of realtors and much driving around town as 51 sites had to be considered and ultimately rejected. We set a deadline of May 31, 2024 to cancel the book sale if suitable space was not available. One week before the deadline, the Bamco Group space on Elmira Road was available and negotiated with great advantage to us. **We were most appreciative for the generous terms of the tenancy and extend grateful thanks to the owners, Mike and Atillio Anselmini, and John Fazari, Senior Vice-President.**

Starting late and having the space for only August and September it was necessary to take another look at how we operate. We normally require about three months to prepare, but with only six-weeks pre-sale time on site, the committee had to make changes. In previous years, donations receiving and pick-up preceded all other operations, but with time our enemy the decision was made to combine all preparation into the same six-week time slot: marketing, communication, donation pick-up and receiving, sign-up, recruitment, sorting, diversion, disposal and getting started on sale days and post-sale work. Computer keyboards were red hot, meetings were in abundance, coffee flowed and much chocolate was consumed and it all came together in time for a very successful sale. Phew, I'm tired just remembering the managed chaos, but it was not without its problems. Who would have thought that August and September of 2024 would be hotter than average, and without air conditioning at the site, volunteers and customers found it quite uncomfortable on particular days. The donation of two large industrial fans, although appreciated, did little to relieve the heat. We recognized that parking would be scarce for the sale and made arrangements with the city to allow unrestricted parking on Massey Road and with neighbouring industrial plants to allow us parking on evenings and weekends. However, exit polls showed that parking was a concern for volunteers and customers alike and, in particular, those with mobility issues.

This was the second year with an enthusiastic Diversion Team who work very hard to keep most items from the landfill. They found several homes for gently used books before the sale, offered remainder to diverse charities afterwards, and packed up most of the other unsold books and media for either Better World Books or Value village where we were paid by the FUNDrive Program. These strategies produced a big win for the book-sale - financially and environmentally.

The Chair of the Book Sale Core Steering Committee serves a three-year term with the choice of renewing for a further three years. I have been privileged to serve in this capacity for the past three years, to have seen a resurrection of the sale after the pandemic and to have witnessed the revenue increase from \$51,000 (2022) through \$64,000 (2023) to \$95,000 in 2024. I have been gifted with comradery and friendship, have learned the value of partnership and compromise, but above all I learned the inherent merit and value in volunteering. It is now time to step down as Chair, effective December 31, 2024 and am delighted to announce that Lynn Allen has been unanimously voted the new Chair.

I am truly grateful to the FGPL Executive Board, the Book Sale Core Steering Committee and it's working groups for always having my back and for offering sound advice and assistance. All of our volunteers and customers contributed to the success of the sale and each deserves my thanks and gratitude. Their effort not only contributed to the Book Sale but contributed to the community at large and to the 'Friends' effort to support the Public Library.

***With grateful thanks to over 260 volunteers,  
May Goodwin, Chair, 2024 Book Sale Committee***

## Book Sale Facts 2024



2012	4474 shoppers		55,213 items for sale	65% sold
2013	5950 shoppers		75,284 items for sale	70% sold
2014	7000 shoppers		78,399 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
2021 & 2022*	<i>Covid-19 Pandemic. No Book Sale</i>			
2022	3614 shoppers	220 volunteers	53,743 items for sale	77% sold
2023	3497 shoppers	230 volunteers	67,291 items for sale	54% sold
2024	5067 shoppers	267 volunteers	83,064 items for sale	66% sold

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

<u>Year</u>	<u>Gross Revenue</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Net Revenue</u>	<u>Venue</u>
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
2015	\$119,663.00	\$ 9,113.00	\$110,550.00	Home Hardware, Speedvale
2016	\$121,043.00	\$16,592.00	\$104,451.00	Woods Factory, Huron St.
2017	\$121,140.00	\$18,619.00	\$102,521.00	Woods Factory, Huron St.
2018	\$128,682.00	\$15,325.00	\$112,375.00	Woods Factory, Huron St.
2019	\$134,613.00	\$17,550.00	\$117,063.00	Woods Factory, Huron St.
2020 & 2021	<i>Covid-19 Pandemic. No Book Sale.</i>			
2022*	\$ 68,403.00	\$16,787.00	\$ 51,616.00	Woods Factory, Huron St.
2023*	\$ 79,348.00	\$ 14,964.00	\$ 64,384.00	Woods Factory, Huron St.
2024	\$123,203.00	\$ 27,825.00	\$ 95,378.00	Bamco Group, Elmira Rd.

\* 2022 and 2023 space was one-third area of previous venue, with the resulting limited shopper access and sales.