

# What Dewey call it?\*

Newsletter of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library  
Editor: Susan Ratcliffe

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## The Work Begins. . .

### Your Executive Team

As with any volunteer group, the amount of time and energy individual members can dedicate to the organization is affected by the individual's work, commitments to other organizations and groups, family commitments, and family and personal illness. Over the last two months, several members of the Executive have been impacted by these factors and, unfortunately, Marilyn Shapka has had to resign from the Executive. Marilyn will continue to be a Friend and will take a more active role when her situation permits. The Executive would like to thank Marilyn for helping to establish the Friends and for her unstinting support and expertise throughout these critical initial two months of the Friends.

Following an assessment of the needs of the Executive and an examination of individual commitments and time constraints, the Executive have decided to modify some of the Executive positions. To help balance the demands of the Chair's position there will now be two Co-Chairs. We are pleased to announce that Bill McKinnie has agreed to move from the position of Member-at-large to Co-chair. Susan Percival will continue as the other Co-Chair.

The Executive now requires a Member-at-large. All members of the Friends are invited to either apply or nominate another member for the position of Member-at-large. If you are interested in the position or would like to nominate someone please contact Bill McKinnie at [mckinnie@sympatico.ca](mailto:mckinnie@sympatico.ca) or 836-9006.



### First the Good News. . .

At its last budget meeting City Council approved both the 2004 operating and capital budgets for the Guelph Public Library. Our Library Board had requested an increase of 5.4% and after some discussion with Chief Librarian, Norman McLeod, Council agreed to this request. In our view this is certainly a very positive step on Council's part and we congratulate Norman and members of the Board for their dedicated service.

In particular, the capital budget includes funding for a south-end branch which will open in 2005, and an east-end branch which will open in 2007. These two additional branches will bring the number of branches to five.

Plans to build a new central library are still in the city's capital budget forecast for 2008 with the notation that "this project will not move forward in subsequent budgets until Council has approved a location and a funding source for this project". This means that the new Central Library project is in a holding pattern until Council takes specific action to obtain a site and fund the project. Clearly, the Friends' role is to make this happen.

## Services @ your Library

### Library Tours!

Would you like to look behind the stacks at the library? Sign up for a library tour and experience first-hand the cramped conditions for staff and patrons:

- ◆ Find out which staff member is working in a converted coat closet;
- ◆ Discover how much computer equipment can be crammed into one room;
- ◆ View the environmental conditions in which the archives are housed.

The tour will vividly demonstrate the need for a new central library. Your tour guide will be our knowledgeable, witty Chief Librarian, Mr. McLeod. Tours can be arranged with advance notice. To sign up for a tour please send an email with your name and desired tour date to [sperciva@uoguelph.ca](mailto:sperciva@uoguelph.ca). or call 824-6637.

### Friends helping friends

The Elliott Group, which offers adaptive and long-term care living for senior citizens, is looking for a volunteer librarian to oversee two small libraries. If you would like to volunteer for four hours per month (perhaps fewer), please contact Suzanne Keating at the Elliott Group.



### \*\*\*\*\* The Contest! \*\*\*\*\*

This newsletter needs a snappy, zippy, friendly name. You will win not only a cool GPL prize, but also Fame among Friends!

\*Submit name suggestion to  
Bill McKinnie at [mckinnie@sympatico.ca](mailto:mckinnie@sympatico.ca) or  
836-9006 before June 30, 2004.

### More Executive Matters

Since the inaugural meeting last January of *The Friends of the Library*, your Executive has been very busy. Executive meetings have occurred approximately every three weeks since that time.

As with every fledgling organization, we have spent much time and energy on the necessary “housekeeping” tasks of establishing bank accounts, launching key sub-committees and recruiting committee leaders, and familiarizing ourselves with membership and library personnel and issues. Now we are ready to concentrate on establishing priorities and goals for *The Friends*.

A tour of the central library facility in February by Executive members, guided by the Chief Librarian, Norman McLeod, revealed just how woefully inadequate the present quarters are and served to reinforce our determination to accomplish our high priority goal of a new main branch facility for Guelph. Jim Whitechurch has agreed to head up our key Advocacy Committee to work on that key issue.

Susan Ratcliffe has agreed to work on a Newsletter to keep the membership informed. To keep costs down, we will circulate the newsletter by email to as many members as possible. Check the Newsletter Naming contest to win cool library prizes.

## More Executive Matters (continued)

Given the changes in the local political scene since last November, it is increasingly evident that the momentum for a new main library facility has stalled badly. This issue has been central in all of our Executive discussions and will remain so. We are monitoring closely the activities of Guelph City Council in order to understand the position of each Councillor with respect to the building of a new library and we have already communicated our views to the Mayor and City Councillors on the recently completed budget process.

This organization is a new one, but we are excited about its possibilities. While we will continue to focus attention on the building of a new library facility and on educating the public about the unique role of a library's main branch, we also are planning other events and activities to draw attention to the importance of our Library and to enrich everyone's library experience. We envisage some imaginative community partnerships for programming in the coming year and are already exploring the possibility of some modest maintenance projects for the current main library facility.

Any success of *The Friends* will depend, in large measure, upon the support and enthusiasm of the members at large. The Executive is small but the membership at large is growing steadily. We invite all suggestions and ideas from our members.

### The Executive:

Co-chairs:	Susan Percival and Bill McKinnie
Secretary	Ann Reed
Treasurer	Ann Murray
Member-at-large	Leo Lamont
Member-at-large	Serena Tene

Needed: one additional Member-at-large.

## Information @your library

### Did you know?

- ◆ Reference librarians in Public Libraries answer more than 350,000 questions weekly, 18.3 million per year. The line of questioners would stretch twice the length of the Trans-Canada Highway from St. Johns to Victoria.

### And in Guelph:

- ◆ Reference staff answered 61,262 requests for information in 2002.
- ◆ One Sunday, a man came in with a brown box. "Can you tell me where to find a book on mushroom identification?" When we gave him a book, he unpacked his mushrooms from the box on the library table and opened the book.

### What do other Friends' groups do for their libraries?

- ◆ They stage fundraisers like Scrabble with the Stars and special lotteries
- ◆ They sponsor writing contests
- ◆ They conduct book sales
- ◆ They establish special collections
- ◆ They publicize library activities in radio announcements
- ◆ They produce plays, and provide author readings

### What can you do @your library?



Be a Friend  
to your library

Join the Friends of the  
Guelph Public Library.  
Call 836-9006.