

Mr. Dewey and Friends

Newsletter of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library

A New Library Headquarters — Why? Where? .. and When?



Main Library — outgrown

The City of Guelph needs a new Library Headquarters.

The need is immediate. No thinking person who has paid any attention to the facts of the situation or has bothered to take one of the frequently-offered tours of the deplorable non-public areas of the current facility could possibly conclude otherwise.

Why do we need more space?

The existing main library was built in 1965 when the population of Guelph was 51,000, or less than half of the present number. Information technology had not progressed to enable the many services we now take for granted, so the building was not designed to permit appropriate adaptation. The building has been too small for twenty years and cannot be properly updated.

Why can't we expand in the current location?

Expansion of the present building would need to be into the parking lot. Parking space should and legally must be provided. It would therefore be necessary to demolish adjacent properties to meet parking requirements. The existing building cannot readily be properly updated. A building the size required would be incompatible with surrounding properties.

Why can't we just establish more branches and decentralize?

The main library is the administrative hub of the Library system. It is the centre for ordering, receiving and processing of library materials, and the centre for the InterLibrary Loan system both among the branches and beyond. It is the administrative centre of the Library system including the bookmobile and the branches; the site of technology development and maintenance; and the site of the administrative and professional staff.



Old Post Office* — outvoted

Branch libraries meet neighbourhood needs for popular reading, but they do not offer access to the in-depth information collection, the reference collection or the professional staff who assist with information searches. Those things exist only in the main library building. **To attempt to reproduce them in all of the branches would be infinitely more expensive than establishing a proper central facility for those resources and their users.**

Why won't a warehouse storage facility do what we need?

The Tri-University storage facility, often cited as the model for this concept, exists because the mandate of a University Library is that of a research facility. Most research information resources must be retained permanently regardless of their age or frequency of use. Those used less frequently can be kept in a remote storage facility.

Public libraries, by contrast, keep only current resources, even in their reference collections. Much of the library's collection is best sellers acquired in many multiple copies. Numbers of copies are reduced dramatically when the peak of interest has passed. Resources not used for a period of time are weeded completely from the collection. The mandate for retaining esoteric research information belongs to university libraries. Public libraries retain only information which needs to be readily available on the current shelves.



Planning Process — out of time?

Why is a central downtown location necessary?

The Library is the intellectual core of the City. Main libraries are always found in the heart of the great cities of the world, grouped within walking distance of all of the important civic and cultural buildings. In Guelph's case this would be within walking distance of the River Run Centre, the Sports and Entertainment Centre, the Guelph Youth Music Centre, the civic administration buildings and those of other levels of government, and the many old churches frequently used as concert venues.

Such a location would bring the Library's 600,000 annual user-visits directly into the downtown core ... an area targeted for revitalizing.

The City of Guelph has recently published a draft Strategic Plan envisioning a community which is all things to all people: inclusive, supportive and socially and culturally responsible. As is implied in the plan's every goal, a strong, dynamic Library Headquarters must be an integral part of such a city.

Virginia Gillham,
Acting Vice-Chair, Friends of the Guelph Public Library

*Photo Credit: Lesley Hayward

**FRIENDS OF THE GUELPH
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
and
**FORUM Concerning a NEW
LIBRARY HEADQUARTERS
BUILDING**

Wednesday, April 27, 2005
Guelph Public Library
Main Branch, Meeting Room

In an effort to conduct the business meeting as expeditiously as possible so that most of the program can be devoted to the issue of a new Headquarters Library, business reports will be made available on paper and on the Friends website, in advance of April 27. Brief summaries will be presented verbally at the meeting. There will be an opportunity for questions.

7:30 pm

Business Meeting

- Call to order
- Presentation and approval of the Minutes of the last meeting
- Business arising out of the previous Meeting
- President's Report
- Correspondence
- Treasurer's Report
- Committee Reports
- Special Resolutions to revise the Constitution.
- Nominating Committee's Report
- Election of Executive Members
- Transaction of any other business

8:00 pm

Presentation

concerning the need for a new
Headquarters Library

Discussion
Adjournment

Social to follow
Refreshments will be served

Proposed Revisions to the Constitution are indicated in **blue** text (deletions) and **bold italics** (additions).

FRIENDS OF THE GUELPH PUBLIC LIBRARY
GUELPH, ONTARIO, CANADA
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Article VI: EXECUTIVE - OFFICERS AND ELECTION

Section 1: Executive

The operation of the organization shall be vested in an Executive which shall consist of four (4) Officers and three (3) executive members.

The Officers shall be: Chair, Vice-Chair *or Co-Chair*, Treasurer, and Secretary.

The Executive shall include the immediate Past-Chair and two members-at-large, *or, in the event that there is no Past-Chair, a third member-at-large*. The Library Board liaison and the Librarian shall be ex-officio members of the Executive. Ex-officio members are deemed to be non-voting members.

Section 7: Nonfulfillment of Duties

Any Officer or member of the Executive, upon four (4) votes **(of) from among** all members of the Executive, may be asked to resign from the Executive for any cause which the Executive may deem reasonable.

Article VII: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

4. The Treasurer shall (g) *Maintain a record of the payment of membership fees, keeping the Secretary regularly informed.*

Article VIII: FINANCES

Section 1: General Operation

3. Dues shall be payable annually and shall become due the first day of **(December) May**. *The dues for each membership year shall be set*

...continued on page 3



Be a Friend!

Bring a Friend!

Support the Friends!

Attend the Annual General Meeting

Proposed Revisions to the Constitution, continued

by the Executive at the annual meeting in April. Membership renewals will be available beginning February 1 of each year, at the membership rates set the previous year. Memberships sold or renewed after the annual meeting shall reflect any increase introduced at the annual meeting.

4. The fiscal year shall (be the same as the calendar year, starting January 1 and running through December 31) run from April 1 through March 31 to allow a current financial statement to be presented at the Annual Meeting in April.

Article IX: STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

In an effort to group like responsibilities and reduce the number of committees, the following changes to the configuration of Standing Committees are proposed.

Section 3. Standing Committees

1. *Program, (and) Special Events and Hospitality Committee*
2. *Public Relations and Publications Committee*
3. *Fundraising Committee*
4. *Advocacy Committee*

Article X: MEETINGS

Section 1: Executive Meetings

The Executive shall meet at the call of the Chair. It shall meet (up to) a minimum of eight times between the Annual General Meetings. These meetings shall be designated as Regular Meetings. A quorum for a Regular Meeting shall consist of a minimum of four (4) members of the Executive, excluding ex-officio members. If a member is absent from a meeting of the Executive for three consecutive Regular Meetings without giving appropriate notice, the seat may be declared vacant by the Executive. The Executive may appoint a member to fill any vacancy until the next General Meeting

Executive Meetings

are currently held on the first Friday of each month (except July and August) at 1:00 pm in the Board Room of the Main Branch of the Guelph Public Library.

All Friends (and their friends) are welcome.

Meeting scheduling is subject to change; please call ahead to confirm meeting dates and times.

Nominees to be Considered

at the Annual General Meeting of the
 Friends of the Guelph Public Library
April 27, 2005

In keeping with the provisions of Article VI, Section 4 of the Constitution of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library, a nominating committee was established in March, 2005, consisting of Virginia Gillham, Acting Vice-Chair of the Executive, and Marilyn Crooks and Elizabeth MacRae, members at large.

The nominating committee presents the following list of candidates for the Executive positions.

Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the time of the AGM, with the permission of the individuals to be nominated from the floor.

Chair	Bill McKinnie
Co-Chair	Virginia Gillham
Secretary	Ann Reed
Treasurer	Ann Murray
Members at Large	Serena Tene
	Betty Ann Deshpande
	Marjorie Bethune

Standing Committee Chairs

The position of Standing Committee Chair is not an elected position. Those individuals identified below should be considered incumbent. The list is presented here in an effort to encourage interested individuals to volunteer to assist with the work of these committees, or to chair those committees for which there is no incumbent Chair.

Advocacy	Mary Mulholland
Public Relations and Publications	Marilyn Crooks/Susan Ratcliffe

The position of Chair is currently vacant on the following Standing Committees:

Fundraising Program, Special Events and Hospitality

Friends interested in serving as Chair or a member of a Standing Committee should contact the Executive.

What's in Store ?

April showers?
Stay dry with a
GPL umbrella.



Tote your
books home in
sturdy bags —
choose
your own
design:
GPL or
Carnegie.

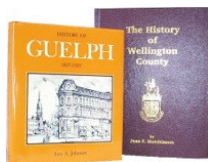


Dressed to
a Tee —
featuring
the original
Guelph
Free Public Library logo.



Coffee time —
with a Library
mug and a
Library book.

Local history
at your
fingertips —
information
on Guelph
and Wellington County.



For more information on
these and other items, visit
your nearest library branch
or check out the
Library Store at
www.library.guelph.on.ca

Alan Pickersgill — Library Advocate

Alan's interest in public libraries began with his membership as a child in England. He strongly believes that the public library is a fundamental public institution that can bring the world of literature to everyone.

His reaction to Guelph's need for a new central library is clear; it is needed, and he supported the recommendation that it be located in the old Post Office. When City Council did not agree and opted not to buy the building he was candid in his response: "I think it was a short-sighted decision made for reasons that I find hard to understand. The councillors who voted against the purchase did so without giving any coherent explanation for their position."

Alan strongly supports expansion of the Main Branch, rather than increasing the number of branches. New south and east end branches (which are badly needed) when operating will ensure ready branch access in all sections of the city. He stresses that the focus now has to be on the Main Branch. "The one we have now is far too small to hold everything it needs to have in order to meet the needs of library members and to service the branches." The new Main Branch must be located downtown. Recognizing that the Library is a key component of the Guelph Community, "it ought to be located in the heart of the city. The Main Branch is the hub, and the branches are the spokes and threads that connect it to the neighbourhoods that make up Guelph."

When asked to suggest possible additional Library services which could be offered, he replied that the Library already offers several that many people are not even aware of. Thinking specifically of the Internet resources available on-line, he noted that the Library is moving through the electronic age quite nicely. He would, however, like to see the return of a previous service. "When I came to Guelph over 30 years ago, the Library was still reasonably new and had community meeting rooms that local groups could book. They were squeezed out as the Library's needs grew. It would be nice if we could get back to being able to provide this service. Of course," he added, "this depends on getting a new Main Branch."

Alan speaks both as a member of the Library Board, and as a library patron. Living in walking distance of both the Main Library and the Bullfrog Mall branch, he and his wife regularly walk to the Library to browse the stacks. They also make use of the Library's Internet site to place requests – right now he has *The DaVinci Code* on hold. Alan enjoys a good mystery; he is currently reading *Fleshmarket Alley*, the latest Inspector Rebus novel by Ian Rankin.

Active in community affairs, Alan holds an ex-officio position on the Friends Executive as liaison from the Guelph Public Library Board. His background is mostly in the labour movement, working as a maintenance millwright active in the CAW, followed by 10 years in Toronto in occupational health and safety training with the Workers Health & Safety Centre. Alan now works part-time for Royal City Housing Co-operative.

For the full list of current members of the Guelph Public Library Board, check the Administration/Governance link on the GPL web site.



Support the "let the diamond shine" initiative

Share your pride in Guelph's outstanding library system — bookmarks are available at all library branches and full information is posted on the Library website www.library.guelph.on.ca

Friends in Warm Places

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."
(Margaret Mead)



It seems that Friends are everywhere no matter where you travel. Such was the case when we noticed the Friends' sign prominently displayed outside the Venice Public Library.

Venice, with a population of about 18,000, is a popular vacation spot located south of Sarasota. in southwest Florida. It has had a Friends' organization since 1962. In 1965, the Friends built a new library with the cooperation of the City of Venice and Sarasota County. The City leased the property to the Friends, and County Commissioners granted them \$32,000 for operating costs. In 1972, Sarasota County took over the daily operations of the Venice Public Library. Today the library is always busy and the facilities and services continue to expand. Last year the library circulated approximately 390,000 items.



When we entered, Betty and Jean were busy helping in the Friends' bookstore located to the left of the main entrance. Adjacent to the bookstore is the Friends' office. The bookstore is a very attractive modern room with perimeter and free-standing metal shelving, and lots of people were browsing and buying books that Saturday afternoon. Hard copy titles sell for \$1.00 - \$3.00, paperbacks \$1.00 and magazines 25 cents. What impressed us was that materials in the store were in excellent condition, well organized and current. Many of the titles had been read only once.

Betty explained that the books are donated by library users and the library. About 25 volunteers and a paid manager look after the book store which is open six days a week. Money from the book store is used to help pay for capital expenditures, books and supplies, special programs, staff development, computers for the computer lab, furniture, AV equipment, signage, and building expansions.

Jean noted that Friends also volunteer in the library. They assist patrons and library staff with circulation, help and instruct those interested in genealogy, file and shelf, teach Internet use, assist with story times, prepare crafts for children's activities, read to and help students with their homework; and organize author events, volunteer appreciation brunches, community events, and deliver books to those homebound. Library volunteers serve over 1500 hours a month in the Venice Public Library.

We enjoyed our visit; there was little doubt in our minds that dedicated and committed people like Betty and Jean and the other members of the Friends of the Venice Public Library were indeed helping to change the world.

Bill & Sheilaigh McKinnie

With a little help from its FRIENDS, a great Library thrives.

Support your Library; your membership in the Friends of the Guelph Public Library will make a difference. For membership information, see Page 6 or the Friends' website: www.friendsoftheguelphpubliclibrary.ca

Friends' 2005 Programs & Activities

... promoting libraries, literacy and reading in our community.

Ongoing:

Book visits to St. Joseph's Health Centre

April 27

Annual Meeting, 7:30 p.m., GPL.

Election of officers

Forum & Discussion Concerning a New Library Headquarters Building

April 30

Library Book Sale

May 28

Library Book Sale

June 25

Library Book Sale

July

Summer barbecues at library branches
Promotion and fund-raising activity

August

Assist in set-up of new South-End Branch
Awards for summer reading program

September 10

Organize grand opening of South-End Branch

October — 3rd week

Participate in Public Library Week

If you are able give two hours of your time to help with any of these programs, please contact a member of the Friends Executive.

GUELPH PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Guelph, Ontario
N1H 4J6
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Website:
www.friendsoftheguelphpubliclibrary.ca

Mr. Dewey and Friends,
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spring, fall and winter.

Submissions, photos and
comments are welcome at
sratcliffe@library.guelph.on.ca

Newsletter Editors
Susan Ratcliffe
Marilyn Crooks

From the Reference Desk



This new service from the Financial Post will give you access to the most up-to-date news and information on Canadian corporations and business issues. The Corporate surveys database draws on the Financial Post for detailed corporate and financial information on Canadian publicly-traded companies, their subsidiaries and affiliates from many industry sectors.

You can get precise contact information for these companies, details on their operations, management, key personnel and finances. You can re-search their products, stocks and marketing. You can also read about general business trends and specific industry news.

Visit the Reference staff for assistance in accessing this valuable new business resource.

“Bookish people tend to be active people, they are not bookish in the sense of being reclusive.” *Globe and Mail, April 2, 2005*

Why Should I Become a Friend of the Guelph Public Library?

Friends have the opportunity to

- meet and join an enthusiastic group of people dedicated to furthering the purposes of the Library
- participate in the programs which are offered by the Friends of the Guelph Public Library
- enjoy the satisfaction which comes from serving your community



Friends of the Guelph Public Library

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Enclosed is my/our annual membership fee and/or donation.

Renewal New

\$10 Individual Friend

\$5 Senior (65+) /Student

\$15 Family (list* parents & dependent Children)

\$30 Community Group

\$50 Corporate

Name*: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Postal Code: _____ Day Phone: (____) - _____ - _____ Evening Phone: (____) - _____ - _____

Email: _____ Enclosed: Cash Cheque (payable to Friends of the Guelph Public Library)

My/our areas of interest are: Program Fundraising Publicity Newsletter Advocacy Book Clubs

Literacy Issues Author Visits Writing/Reading Workshops Educational Exhibits Special Events

Membership Hospitality Other (please specify) _____