

**Mr. Dewey and Friends**

**Newsletter of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library**

***Seizing the Opportunity -- Realizing the Vision!***

"Great cities do more than fix their pipes, pavement and police service. They tap their unique cultural assets to generate wealth and create a place where people aspire to work and live. This approach is essential to success in the new global, urban age."

So writes former Winnipeg mayor Glen Murray, arguably Canada's leading, contemporary urban planner. Murray is a worthy successor to the legendary Jane Jacobs for whom generating urban wealth and humanizing urban spaces were two parts of the same equation. His planning group advocates urban economic and cultural revitalization through mixed use development and the prioritizing of quality of life including cultural life.

Most of the world's great cities, and an increasing number of smaller ones, feature downtown cores anchored by major civic and cultural facilities. Art galleries, performance facilities and libraries are at the hearts of London, Paris, and New York, but they are also now central to civic redevelopment in Hamilton, Burlington and Whitby. Increasingly, these core areas are livable and walkable and incorporate parks and residential space on a human scale. Such developments result in both the economic and the cultural rejuvenation of downtown cores. People and businesses move in, jobs are created and taxes flow back to the city. It is possible to have it all. Furthermore, it is possible for Guelph to have it all now.

Guelph has a history of visionary administration and of leading citizens interested in creating a beautiful city with a high quality of life. What other explanation can there be for the lovely architecture of many of the oldest buildings in the downtown core? What other explanation can there be for the introduction of the first free public library in the province well before the turn of the 20th century; the establishment more than 100 years ago of what is now a major university; or the long-time presence of one of Canada's leading mental health facilities?

Blessed with a visionary city council, Guelph residents now have an opportunity to choose an innovative plan

for a key segment of the downtown core. There are three possible models after the Glen Murray style of mixed use urban renewal, for the redevelopment of the Baker Street parking lot area. Anchored by a long-overdue main library worthy of Guelph in the 21st century, the area would also include park space, residential and commercial space and underground parking. Together with the soon-to-be completed city hall, existing sports and performance facilities, this would be a key area in a rejuvenated downtown created with limited impact on taxpayers because it would be a partnership with a like-minded developer.

Public libraries are even more integral to community life in the 21st century than they were 50 years ago. In addition to books and paper reference resources, modern libraries offer technological links and technological training for citizens. They offer access to information in electronic as well as paper format; literacy and community programs for all ages; and gathering spaces of a variety of types and sizes. Burlington, Kitchener, Waterloo and Whitby have modern library structures facilitating all of these activities. Guelph's current level of exemplary Library service is achieved despite outrageous structural limitations. The Guelph community is above average measured either by its prosperity or by the educational and literacy levels of its citizens. There should be no question of the appropriateness of this kind of urban development.

This is an opportunity that will not come again for several generations. It is imperative that we employ collective, civic, long term vision; that we understand both the economic viability and the long term economic and social benefits of the possibilities that lie before us, and that we seize this opportunity to perpetuate the quality of life envisioned by Guelph's founders.

**Virginia Gillham**  
**Chair, Friends of the Guelph Public Library**

*This editorial from the July 4, 2008 Issue of the Guelph Tribune is reproduced with the permission of the Tribune editor.*

***Did you know?***

***Library use increases in periods of recession***

An American Library Association study (2002) confirmed what librarians have seen from experience - that in times of economic difficulties people turn to their libraries and librarians. Libraries are America's great information equalizers - the only place people of all ages and backgrounds can find and freely use such a diversity of resources, along with the expert guidance of librarians.



**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Giant Book Sale**  
**Saturday, November 22, 2008**  
**Old Quebec Street**

## Friends of the Guelph Public Library

### Executive

Virginia Gillham, Chair  
Wendy Ashlock, Secretary  
Alan Pickersgill, Treasurer  
Mary Mulholland, Advocacy  
Graham Smith, Membership

### Members at Large

Marjorie Bethune  
Liz Macrae

### Ex-Officio Members

Norman McLeod,  
Chief Librarian  
Kerry Hannah,  
Children's Services  
Alan Pickersgill,  
Library Board

### Newsletter Editors

Marilyn Crooks  
Susan Ratcliffe

There are currently two vacancies on the Executive. If you are interested in being a member, please apply, indicating relevant interests and skills, to Virginia Gillham, Chair, Friends of the Guelph Public Library, e-mail: [virginiagillham@aol.com](mailto:virginiagillham@aol.com). The Executive is currently seeking someone familiar with websites, who could act as liaison with our webmaster.

*The Executive welcomes your comments and suggestions. Members may be contacted individually; written submissions may be left with Circulation staff at any library branch.*

### *An opportunity to help the Friends Executive*

The Executive would appreciate a volunteer to act as recording secretary. This person need not be an official member of the Executive, but would attend Executive meetings (usually the first Friday afternoon of each month), record and distribute minutes and other relevant documentation flowing directly from the meeting. Word processing skills and access to email would be significant assets for this task.

## We're havin' a book sale....a fabulous book sale...

Just about a year ago, the Friends of the Guelph Public Library staged their first (annual we hope) book sale under the capable leadership of Marj Bethune. We had no idea what to expect, but the response was absolutely breathtaking. More than 19,000 books and audio visual items were donated, and more than \$10,000 changed hands. The money has been invested to be used for special equipment for the children's and young adult areas in the soon-to-be-built new main library. The sale augmented the network of Library supporters, created a very positive ambience and raised significantly the profile of the new main library initiative.

We are so pleased with ourselves that we are going to do it again!

On Saturday, November 22, in Old Quebec Street, just in time for Christmas shopping, please join us for our second annual **Giant Book Sale**. Again this year, fabulous bargains will be available. To date more than 18,000 items have been donated, with donations accepted until Saturday, November 8. Look for barely-used paperback and hardback books including children's books, as well as boxed games and medial resources. There will be a section of special treasures, but most items will be priced at 50¢, \$1 or \$2.

### You Can Help

**Volunteers** are needed, both now and at the time of the sale. (See Page 3) If you can spare an occasional 2 or 3 hours until November 22 to help with a variety of pre-sale tasks or if you are able to help with the sale the weekend of November 22, please contact John and Joan Goddard (519-821-0747) [jjgoddard@rogers.com](mailto:jjgoddard@rogers.com).

If you can't spare the time, but would like to help, there are opportunities for **Sponsorships** to assist with the expenses of mounting the sale, including transportation and peripheral costs in connection with the facilities. Income tax receipts will be given and sponsors will have the option of being recognized publicly. If you are able to help with sponsorship, please contact Virginia Gillham (519-821-5874) [virginiagillham@aol.com](mailto:virginiagillham@aol.com).

### Book Sale Sponsorship Opportunities

The Friends of the Guelph Public Library are now able to offer tax receipts for donations. Receipts will be available for any donation of \$10 or more in support of the expenses related to mounting the book sale.

**Any donation of \$100 or more will be considered a sponsorship. Sponsorship donors will be publicly recognized unless they prefer anonymity.**

### Projected costs

Poster printing	\$100
Miscellaneous advertising supplies	\$100
Table rental	\$100
Other equipment rental	\$100
Truck rental for movement of books to sale site -- 2 trucks @ \$100 each	\$100
Courier costs - delivery to the sorting facility, August - November xx trips	TBA
Sorting facility utilities	\$200
Post-event waste disposal	\$200

**Partial sponsorship of the more expensive items  
will be gratefully received.**

## Volunteer Help Needed in November

Join an enthusiastic book sale team for a short term undertaking; flexible hours will be arranged. Initial processing is taking place on St George's Square; setup, sale and clean up will occur in Old Quebec Street. Secondary students receive credit for volunteer hours.

**Assistance is needed in the following areas:** (\*Where indicated, volunteers must be capable of lifting heavy boxes.)

**Publicity Blitz** (For Blitz information, contact Marilyn Crooks 519-821-5985)

### November 4 - 15

- Deliver sale posters for display throughout the community. Car may be necessary. Dates and areas will be assigned.
- Saturday, November 8, November 15 – Hand out flyers at the Guelph Market (outside)

### Preparation and Sale

#### November 1 - 23

- Sort and pack donated books and other media in the downtown storage facility
- Move\* boxes of books around the sorting facility
- Drivers\* with own vehicles to pick up donations
- Prepare unusable items for recycling

#### From November 10 (Access to Old Quebec Street to be confirmed)

- Move\* sorted boxes from sorting/storage facility to storage in Old Quebec Street

#### November 21

- Move\* sorted boxes from storage in Old Quebec Street to sales area
- Set up display tables

#### Saturday, November 22 – All Day – Shifts to be Arranged

- Complete set up as required
- a) sales table, b) tally customer order, c) receive payment, d) bag/pack purchases
- Monitor sales area – replenish and tidy stock
- At sale end, pack unsold items and cleanup of sales and storage areas
- General help to assist where needed.



#### Post Sale (Dates to be confirmed)

Additional assistance will be required during the following week to sort and dispose of unsold items.

#### For more information contact

Volunteer Coordinator Phone: 519-821-0747 Email: [j-goddard@rogers.com](mailto:j-goddard@rogers.com)  
Friends' website: <http://www.friendsguelphlibrary.ca/>



#### Volunteers ... making it happen!

Janina makes an assessment while sorters tackle boxes of donations.

Virginia propels a book truck along Quebec Street from Main Branch to the Square.





## Family Fun Day, September 13

Guelph Public Library continued celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> birthday with a Family Fun Day on Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at the West End Branch Library. Crowds of Library supporters enjoyed a free BBQ, children's entertainment including juggler Craig Douglas, a Bookmobile tour, games, craft time, face painting, surprises galore and much more!



### *Linda Kearns -- A New Chapter*

On August 30, Linda Kearns retired as Manager of the Systems Department after 31 years with the GPL. She has seen many changes since she started in 1977 as a junior clerk in the Main Library. At that time, there was only one branch with one card catalogue, all books were checked out by hand and overdue notices were written on typewriters.

A graduate of John F. Ross, she attended Western where she achieved her BA in History and a Masters of Library Sciences. Over the years, Linda developed expertise in technology and automation through courses, seminars and conferences. Step by step, she has led the Library through the automation process, always working to ensure that library technology will meet patron needs. Amid these challenges, Linda's interests in tai chi and qi gong have helped her to maintain balance and patience.

In an earlier *Mr Dewey*, Linda said "I want to keep the GPL somewhere strategically positioned between the leading edge, and the road to technological folly or obsolescence." She has carried out this mission with a great love of people and a ready sense of humour. Her fellow workers have appreciated her knowledge, constant attention to detail, and willingness to help out.

Linda has said that she "never stopped marvelling at what a wonderful institution the public library is, and how many people it has helped in countless ways."

Thanks, Linda for making the Guelph Public Library the wonderful place it is today.



Linda admires a sculpture by Stephen Lewis, a retirement gift from Library staff.

### Live Homework Help

is an online tutoring program, supported by selected and qualified tutors, that assists students from kindergarten to adult level with school-based homework and assignment projects in Math, Science, English, Social Studies and a Writing Centre. In Ontario, the Guelph Public Library was the first library to purchase this online service and to offer it **free** of charge to Guelph's citizens.

Since its launch, the GPL Live Homework Help service has grown exponentially. Usage is increasing by over 25% a month. This year-round service is offered through the Library's website - [www.library.guelph.on.ca](http://www.library.guelph.on.ca) - daily from 4:00 pm to 10:00 pm. In 2006, 1,350 students utilized this service; in 2007, a total of 3,764 benefitted from the program.

Already this year, 3,423 students have registered to date. September's usage increased by 94.8% and the number of Grade 12 students using Live Homework Help this month alone was almost as high as the total number in September 2007. Adult learners began to discover the service expansions geared to their needs and college students accessed the site in much higher numbers.

The Guelph Public Library's Live Homework Help statistics are "off the charts" according to their provider Tutor.com. The GPL is in the top tier of library usage per capita and satisfied students are quickly spreading the word about their successful half hour online tutoring sessions.

This September the GPL offered assistance for the first time to those in Kindergarten through Grade 3; and a wide range of new subject areas were added for adult learners.



**GUELPH PUBLIC LIBRARY**

100 Norfolk Street  
Guelph, Ontario  
N1H 4J6  
Phone: 519-824-6220  
Website: www.library.guelph.on.ca

**Mr. Dewey and Friends,**

the newsletter of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library, is published three times annually: spring, fall and winter. Next issue: January 2009.

Submissions, photos and comments are welcome. They may be delivered to the Friends mailbox at the Main Branch or to any Branch Library.

Website:  
www.friendsguelphlibrary.ca

Newsletter Editors

Susan Ratcliffe, Marilyn Crooks

**Are you still, officially, a member?**

The membership year ends at the end of April each year, corresponding with the time of the Annual Meeting. **Did you renew?** Memberships are our principal source of income. The cost is \$10 for an individual, \$5 for students and seniors and \$15 per family. For your convenience, a membership form is reproduced on Page 6. If you are a returning member, you need only give us your name, unless your contact information has changed. If you are a new member, please also let us know if there are areas where you would be interested in volunteering.

Members receive advance information about special activities, occasional special benefits, and the satisfaction of supporting a cause that is vital to the well-being of the City.



**Alan, Liz and Mary send a message!**

**Why 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 and activities 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**

**2008 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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

Renewal  New

\$10 Individual Friend

\$5 Senior (65+) /Student

\$15 Family (list 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) \_\_\_\_\_