

Mr. Dewey and Friends

Newsletter of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library

Everybody's Doin' It!

Recently, I enjoyed an in-depth tour of the new Whitby Public Library. The building, designed by Toronto architects Shore, Tilbe, Irwin and partners, was the winner of the 2007 Ontario Library Association Building Excellence design award. It is a beautiful, 60,000 square foot, light-filled and functional edifice. Even more striking, however, is the correctness of its location and environment.

The new Whitby Central Library anchors a downtown redevelopment complex. It is situated in a large open square, surrounded by city businesses and service facilities. Its immediate surroundings include patios and outdoor seating/gathering spaces on two sides and a two-level reflecting pool. The interior includes several public meeting rooms, small group and individual studies, and a number of attractive, comfortable gathering spaces. It was constructed at a cost of \$20 million. Despite predictions of doom before its opening it is a busy place which last year welcomed about 500,000 user visits and circulated more than 850,000 items. If you build it, they will come!

In 2006, the population of Whitby was 115,000. The projected population for 2012 is 133,600 and for 2021, 162,000. Like Wellington County, Durham County, which includes Whitby, is identified in the Ontario Government 'Places to Grow' act. The parallels between Whitby and Guelph are striking. The concept and location of the Whitby central library are absolutely correct according to all current research and wisdom on the subject. The city council at the time the project was approved demonstrated the kind of insight and long-term vision that values quality of life in the face of exponential population growth.

Closer to home, though in a smaller community, the new Hespeler Public Library is also an award

winning building. (<http://www.cambridgenow.ca/npps/story.cfm?ID=747>) In this instance, a Carnegie façade was retained, and enclosed in a glass cube. The result is a functional, 14,000 square foot building (the Hespeler library serves a population of about 30,000) that retains the best of the old Carnegie architecture and surrounds it with a modern library space equal to any being built in medium-sized communities anywhere. The photo essay written at the time the award was made public notes " This is an amazing story of how a historic building was transformed and a small town revitalized through civic courage and bold design intervention".

A Public Library is the most egalitarian institution in modern society, and arguably the most effective use of tax dollars. To those within the boundaries of its tax base, it is completely free. Unlike municipally-administered sports or other recreational activities, there are no 'fees' involved in its use. For the equivalent of about \$15/citizen in tax funding, everyone in the City of Guelph has access to an almost unlimited array of information resources.

As these two examples demonstrate, municipalities increasingly realize the value and importance of their public library system, and make every effort to develop it in a manner appropriate to the needs of their citizens. In Guelph a majority of current municipal council members demonstrate long term vision and an understanding of quality of life. Dare we hope that a central library befitting the calibre of city Guelph has always been, may now be on the horizon? Dare we hope that our city will be "revitalized through civic courage"?

Virginia Gillham, Chair
Friends of the Guelph Public Library



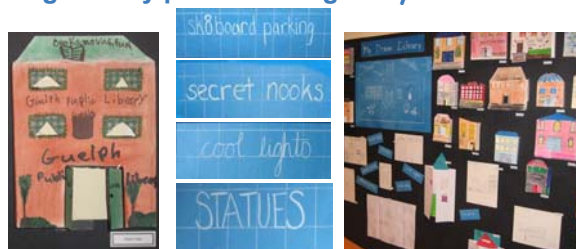
Whitby Central Library



Hespeler Public Library

Guelph 2009 ?

...young Library patrons design "My Dream Library"



Friends of the Guelph Public Library

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Virginia Gillham, Chair
Wendy Ashlock, Secretary
Alan Pickersgill, Treasurer
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Norman McLeod,
Chief Librarian
Kerry Hannah,
Children's Services
Alan Pickersgill,
Library Board

Newsletter Editors

Marilyn Crooks
Susan Ratcliffe

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

2008 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library, will take place in the auditorium of the main Library, at 7:30 pm, on Wednesday, April 16. Please try to join us as we review our activities of the past year and talk about where we hope to go in the near future.

This year we hope to have two guest speakers whose comments will be of interest to anyone who cares about the future of the Guelph Public Library. An invitation has been extended to the President of one of the most dynamic Friends of the Public Library groups in Canada. This group, from a community smaller than Guelph, has a large and active membership, and engages in a dizzying assortment of support and very successful fund-raising activities. Come and hear how this is done.

Most Library supporters are aware, at some level, of the investigations presently in process surrounding the development of the Baker St. block. In addition to our Friends representative, we expect to have a speaker who will tell us, from the perspective of someone closely involved, just what is being discussed, and what it means to the future prosperity of downtown Guelph.

Refreshments will be served.

Please join us for this interesting evening.



HEROES!

Recently, the Executive of the Friends had to do some fancy footwork to relocate, on very short notice, a large number of boxes of books being stored in anticipation of our next book sale.

Thank you so much to the following heroes:

Lori Hasulo, who offered to share her storage locker space with us.

Barbara Mann, Rob Wilson and Alison Tibbles who showed up on a Saturday morning and spent 3 hours moving boxes of books out of Old Quebec Street, into a cargo van, out of the van and into a storage locker.

Susan Sprague who also helped with the packing and moving, but in addition found the young and able Rob and Alison for us.

Bob Gillham, who supervised and helped with the packing and moving, and drove the get-away van.

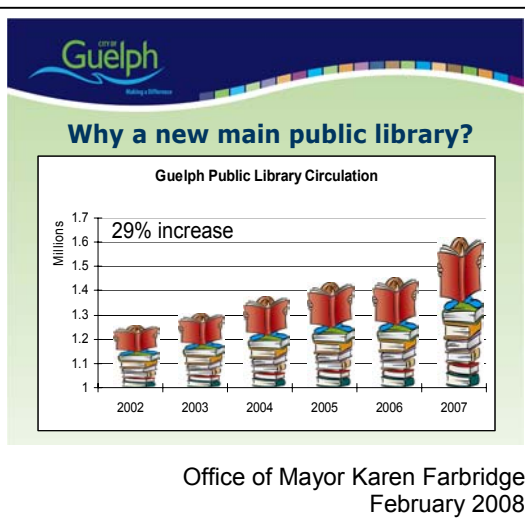
It's folks like this who allow organizations like ours to operate.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Congratulations!

Our Woman of Dis-

Virginia Gillham is a nominee in the category of Voluntary Community Service for the 2008 Women of Distinction. The former director of the Wilfrid Laurier University Library, she is also being recognized for inspiring young women. Since age 18, Gillham has judged and refereed for Skate Canada and has helped young skaters develop their talents. Virginia and her husband Bob were also instrumental in creating the Guelph Youth Music Centre. Virginia, as an individual and through the Friends, has been a strong voice in support of the new Main Library. Friends will agree with the words of Joan Fuller, president of CFUW Guelph, "She's always risen to every challenge. If there's something to be done, she gets involved and she does it."





Mary Mulholland and Ann Welland welcome new Friends.

It's Time to Renew Your Membership in the Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Guelph Public Library first came together as a group in January 2004 to advocate the immediate and crucial need for an enormously upgraded main library facility in the downtown core.

Over the following three years the executive of the group, together with an energetic Advocacy committee, worked to ensure that both voters and candidates for the 2006 Municipal election understood the facts of the Library situation, the role of the main Library, and the acute need for a Library facility worthy of this city in the 21st century.

Exciting discussions are now under way at City Council about a mixed use redevelopment in the downtown core anchored by a new library. Efforts are ongoing, actively monitored by the Friends of the Library, to move the initiative forward on the City's capital spending forecast.

The three identified purposes of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library are to:

- ✦ Advocate for the Library in the community
- ✦ Support special Library programs
- ✦ Fund raise to support both the programs of the Library and the renewed physical facility

In its short life, in addition to its very public advocacy activities, The Friends of the Guelph Public Library has supported book clubs, reading programmes, author events, social events and the relaunch of the bookmobile. A very successful fund-raising book sale took place in the Fall of 2007. The plan now is to make that sale a regular event evolving into a gift and used book facility in the new central library.

As the result of recent discussions, two major fund raising targets have been adopted for the immediate future:

- ✦ To contribute a work of art of considerable local significance, in recognition of the 125th anniversary of The Guelph Public Library, the oldest public library in Ontario
- ✦ To raise funds to equip a specialized area of the new Library, such as a children's storytelling space, or a young adult area

With the receipts of last Fall's book sale, The Friends have opened a managed account with the **Guelph Community Foundation**. Funds raised will be invested for us, but will be available for our use when the new library is a reality. The extra advantage of this move is that **we can now offer tax receipts for donations to our efforts**.

These are exciting plans and possibilities, but they cannot happen without you. Your membership fees provide most of the financial resources of the group. The Friends of the Guelph Public Library is not a sustainable group without your help. Please use the form on Page 7 of this newsletter to initiate or renew your membership today.

Thank you.

Virginia Gillham, Chair
Friends of the Guelph Public Library



The Great Guelph Book Sale

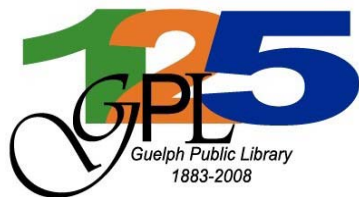
The most successful Friends of the Library event of the past year was the book sale of October 2007. Nearly 19,000 items were donated, approximately \$10,000 in revenue was generated, and a wonderful community spirit evolved. Many citizens and local organizations, inspired by the validity of the cause, were quick to help. Because it was the group's first venture into such an initiative, volunteers, chaired by Marj Bethune, did a huge amount of work to make it happen. Marj and her team blazed a number of trails and assembled a large and helpful binder of procedures, contacts and volunteers. Thanks to their efforts, doing this a second time should be considerably less daunting.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of The Great Guelph Book Sale.

Is there a role here for you?

We are looking for volunteers to help a little or a lot with another sale in October of 2008. The many volunteers who worked to sort donated books, set up the sale and monitor sales on the day, found the experience both rewarding and fun. If you are interested in a way to help the Library, through The Friends, please let us know about your past relevant experience, and consider this volunteer opportunity.

Virginia Gillham, Chair
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The Celebration Begins!

On Saturday, February 9, 2008 a year of celebrations began with opening ceremonies, behind-the-scene tours and birthday cake. Special guests Mayor Karen Farbridge, Library Board Chairman Bruce Weaver, and Mr. McLeod conveyed their congratulations to the library for its anniversary. Special thanks to the members of the Library's Communications Committee for planning this event: Committee Chair Kerry Hannah, Lisa Cunningham, Colleen Lipp, Andrea Curtis and Jacqui Pharoah.



Norman McLeod, Chief Librarian

"Today let's pause to celebrate our inspired journey. Tomorrow, together, let's boldly forge ahead into an amazing future.

We are gathered today to celebrate the courage and conviction of the small group of people, citizens and politicians, who launched our inspired journey 125 years ago. A library like the Guelph Library is a unique institution, just as relevant and important to the city and the wellbeing of its citizens now as it was 125 years ago. It's good to remember that we are merely the latest in a long line of people charged with the responsibility of nurturing and making this remarkable institution flourish and grow. History will judge us, for in caring for the library, we hold hands with those courageous people of 125 years ago, and we make a promise to the future. We have done much, but there is more to do."

(as read by Linda Kearns on behalf of Mr. McLeod)

John Snell

served as Chief Librarian from 1950, beginning in the Carnegie Library. Fifteen years later, he opened the present Main Library from which he retired in 1977.



Bruce Weaver

, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Guelph Public Library

"Our Inspired Journey is a phrase that encapsulates the vision of our first librarians and city officials who recognized the importance of literature and the value of an educated populace. The Carnegie Foundation grant enabled a grand building to be erected here and it served the community well for over half a century. Our inspired journey will take us away from this historic location to a new and exciting venue, where we will continue to be a source of knowledge, a gathering place, and the depository for community archival material. In short, we will continue to do what libraries do, and we will do it well. May the journey continue to be Inspired!"

Mayor Karen Farbridge

"Council is committed to ensuring we build a facility that reflects how much Guelphites value their library. It will be a focal point for our community, in the heart of our downtown. When the City of Guelph founded the Guelph Public Library in 1883, they started something remarkable. Today, 125 years later, our library is more vital to our community than ever before."



Founded on February 10, 1883, the Guelph Public Library is Ontario's oldest public library.

Guelph was among the first communities to take advantage of a Carnegie building grant; the Carnegie Library cornerstone was laid on April 23, 1903.



A photo history of the Guelph Public Library is displayed in the entrance

Linda Kearns

, Director of Library Systems

Concluding the formal ceremonies, Linda thanked the Mayors, Councils and Library Boards of the last 125 years, as well as the nearly 125,000 stake-holders, the citizens of Guelph, whose support has made the inspired journey possible. She invited the audience to enjoy cake and refreshments, tour behind the scenes, view the slide shows, and browse through the special anniversary merchandise.



Eileen Hammill

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has been a library patron and dedicated supporter since childhood; she has served on local and provincial library boards for more than four decades.



(Major cities worldwide) "... they're all pumping millions and millions of dollars into public libraries. They want good public space, they want good literacy skills and they want a civilizing institution in all of their neighbourhoods and communities."

*Josephine Bryant, Chief Librarian, Toronto Public Library
Globe and Mail, March 8, 2008*

James Gordon, introduced as a Guelph "institution" (although considerably younger than 125!) delighted the audience with his debut performance of the *Guelph Library Anniversary Song* which was commissioned for the 125th celebration. His witty account of the Library's origins and its growth amid political struggles and community reactions demonstrated that while controversies are nothing new, the Guelph Public Library has met these challenges and continued to serve Guelph well for 125 years. Thank you, James, for sharing your song with the Friends.



The Stephen Lewis sculpture



Whoooooo is Stephen Lewis? Those who have met him in his long career in Guelph, students, teachers, parents, field naturalists, artists, the list is endless, would associate him with owls. Pictures of owls, sculptures of owls, statues of chairs of books topped with an owl – a compelling signature of a long career in art and in Guelph.

Stephen was commissioned by the Guelph Public Library to create a commemorative sculpture to be installed in the new library, an image, to represent the changes in the library's "inspired journey" over its 125 years. The beautiful sculpture, made of cast aluminum and covered in bronze, features a staircase-like pile of books beside columns from the old Carnegie library; it also includes the GPL logo on a computer screen. Stephen explained that the heritage letters are a traditional font preserved by an area foundry.

Stephen Lewis has created a beautiful gift to the future representing the past. But take a second look at that column – isn't that an owl we see at the top?



Suzuki students Grace Chan and Ian Finlay entertain visitors to the Children's Department.



Staff greeters Sharron Turner and Lisa Cunningham welcome party guests.



Ron Beveridge enjoys "food in the Library!"



Janice Wiseman, Liz Sandals and Betty Mottin tour the second floor.



Leanne Piper and Hugh Guthrie catch up on local news.

Guelph Library Anniversary Song

Back in 1832, when Guelph,
was pretty new, there was a shelf
In the back of Thomas Sandilands store
Where you could borrow a book or two,
But as our little city grew
Everybody knew they needed more

.....then, in 1850....

The Farmer's And Mechanic's Institute,
Were dedicated to the noble pursuit
Of keeping townfolk out of the saloons,
With a couple thousand books, by the 1880's
They even had a room for ladies,
Who could read there in the afternoons!

Soon after that they passed the "Free Libraries Act"
Guelphites rejoiced and as a matter of fact,
We were the first place in the province to get one going.
And on Wyndham Street they rented a place
That soon ran right out of bookshelf space,
'cuz in those days our town was quickly growing.

(DOES THIS SOUND FAMILIAR?)

What we needed was a permanent home
A place that we could call our own
A real library that we'd use with pride
There was lots of arguing all around,
It's always that way in this old town
Where to put it? No one could decide.

(DOES THIS SOUND FAMILIAR?)

And at the turn of the new century
They appealed to Andrew Carnegie
who made millions by exploiting worker's labour
"That's Blood Money", some folks hollered.
"We Don't want his dirty dollars"

That discussion pitted neighbour against Neighbour.
But we took his dough and despite the guilt
A handsome edifice was built,
By Colwill, a fine local architect-
With it's grand design and imposing dome,
Our books finally had a fitting home,
C'était une belle bibliothèque

(that's French... had to look it up at the library!)

It was admired by one and all,
But naturally it was too small,
And by the 1960's we all found,
that something really had to be done,
Another hot debate had begun.
And our nemesis WOLFOND.. ripped it down!

By the turn of the NEXT century
That place was busting at the seams
A new one was in order, most folks knew.
Mayor Quarrie said " It's a want, not a need"
Voters said, ' Kate, well yes indeed,
What We Know that we Don't want OR need is YOU! '

And now we've got a new regime
And it looks like we'll realize our dream,
But just like most of my books, we're overdue!
We're still fightin' about where to put it,
It wouldn't be Guelph without that would it?
Just like the libraries' video collection, there's nothing new!

Well that's the way the story went,
Libraries got built and books got lent,
someone should write a book about its' history,
(but where would we keep it?)
A hundred and twenty-five good years,
Come on now let's all give three cheers,
But quiet ones, people are trying to read!



A series of READ posters with local personalities and their favourite book has been created by staff members Colleen Lipp and Gord Lipp to celebrate the Library's 125th birthday. View the collection on the Library website.

Friends in the Community

Join the Friends of the Guelph Public Library in supporting the following special events.

On May 8th, the Friends will present a commemorative "photographic tribute" created by local fine art photographer Dean Palmer.

Celebrating Imagination

An Evening With Guelph Authors & Illustrators

Thursday, May 8th 8~10 p.m.
Westminster Square Branch
100-31 Farley Dr.

Guest Speaker: Thomas King

Meet over 60 of Guelph's celebrated authors and illustrators in person! Enjoy the live jazz band with Bebobamoeba and light refreshments at this "adults only" event.



Come celebrate with us!
www.library.guelph.on.ca

Guelph Reads 2008

Once again this year, Guelph will have its very own version of *Canada Reads*. A panel of local celebrities will recommend four books, and then come together at the Guelph Youth Music Centre on the evening of April 26. Each panelist will speak for 10 minutes about his/her book. Panelists will respond to questions from the audience and the moderator, generating debate and discussion of the merits of each book. Audience members will then vote to choose which of the four titles will be the one that all of Guelph should read.

This promises to be a fun event for all enthusiastic bibliophiles. *Guelph Reads 2008* invites the community to "catch the sounds of pages turning as Guelph Reads for social change!" Watch for the list of panel members (confirmed are Tom King, novelist and politician, and Dr. Anne-Marie Zajdlik, AIDS activist) and the list of chosen titles in the local press and elsewhere over the next few weeks. Updates and announcements will be published on the Guelph Reads website: www.freewebs.com/guelphreads.

The Guelph Reads Organizing Committee of four volunteers - Aislinn Thomas, Ben Walsh, Kimm Khagram and Magda Konieczna - is looking for self-directed and enthusiastic volunteers to help, now until April 26. Assistance is needed in such areas as advertising/media promotion, elections and voting procedures, program creation and printing, website development, sound technician, reception and event volunteers. Interested volunteers should email kimm.khagram@gmail.com with phone contact information as soon as possible.

Guelph Reads 2008 is a free event made possible with the support of the Guelph Library and its Friends. Everyone is welcome to attend. Be sure to set aside the evening of April 26 for an interesting evening with a twist.

The Friends of the Guelph Public Library are happy to support and promote this community initiative.



GUELPH PUBLIC LIBRARY

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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 2008.

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

What's new in the Library?



Knowledge Ontario (KO) is a collaboration of more than 2000 libraries (public, university, college, school, and Ontario government libraries), cultural heritage organizations and educational institutions. Its focus is on connecting Ontarians with digital content to support their information and learning needs. KO delivers enhanced services to and through the province's publicly funded libraries by supporting equity of access to information, creation of digital content, research and literacy. It aims to provide equal access to online licensed electronic resources including full-text of newspapers, magazines and books to all Ontarians, free of charge.

You can access many databases through the Guelph Public Library website under the Search our Library, Internet Resources section of the page. Try out the Power Searches/Thomson Gale Power Search buttons and you will be amazed at the huge range of resources you have access to with your library card number. Try out the General OneFile, the Computer Database, the Discovering Collection, the LegalTrac, or the Military and Intelligence Database and many other special interest databases.

In the midst of this endless winter, try the InfoTrac Garden, Landscape & Horticulture eCollection for preparations for spring in your garden.

If you have any questions about accessing this amazing resource, **ask your librarian.**

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) _____