

Mr. Dewey and Friends

Newsletter of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library

Time for Action!



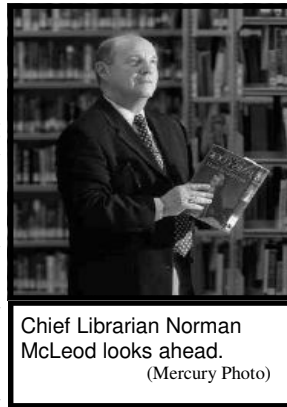
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At a time when we thought all was quiet, at least until the new year, some members of City Council were making proposals which could seriously affect plans for a new main branch library.

Here's what happened: plans for a new main branch were delayed by moving them from 2008 to 2009 in the capital works' forecast; Councillor Schnurr moved that plans for a new library be removed from the capital works' forecast entirely, (this was narrowly defeated by a vote of 7 to 6).

Councillor Laura Baily who is serving her first term on Council proposed that the new library be located in the proposed civic centre, a.k.a. Memorial Gardens, in a new multi-use centre; Councillor Moziar admitted that the Canada Post Office on Wyndham Street was still for sale and that Council had authorized city staff to negotiate with the federal government to acquire the site for future civic use; and the administration and design committee working on the new civic centre was asked to determine again what organizations were interested in renting space in the new centre. The chair of this committee is Councillor Cathy Downer who has served on this committee for four years and favours the Canada Post Office site for the new library.



Chief Librarian Norman McLeod looks ahead.
(Mercury Photo)

Now, as we begin a new year, we hope clearer heads will prevail and Council will approach the need for a new main library in a more rational and strategic manner. It seems to us that Council should sit down immediately with the Library Board and Chief Librarian, Norman McLeod, and talk.

First on the agenda should be a review of the findings of Monteith Planning Consultants (2002) and an analysis of why Monteith, the Library Board and the Chief Librarian all favour the post-office site. Next, Council should "take the recommendations of these people to heart and move forward with the post office option" (**Guelph Mercury**, Editorial, Dec. 24, 2004).

This all seems very logical and reasonable to us. In a letter sent to the Friends last fall, Mayor Quarrie indicated that the Friends of the GPL would be involved in the planning process as well. We are certainly willing to be active participants.

As a new year begins, Council has a unique opportunity to demonstrate that they are leaders with a sense of vision, and that the citizens of Guelph deserve a library service second to none. **It's time to act!**

Bill McKinnie

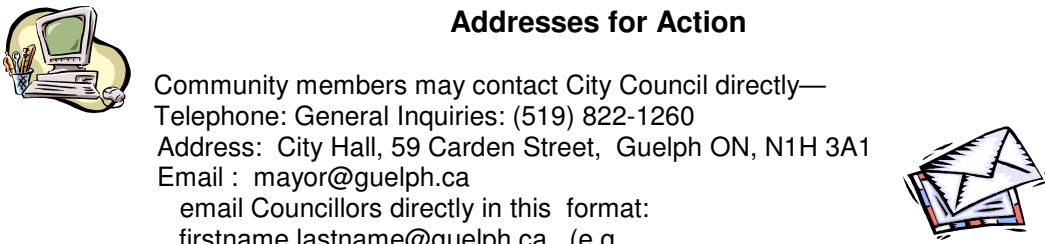
With a little help from its **FRIENDS**, a great Library thrives.

Support your Library; your membership in the Friends of the Guelph Public Library will make a difference.

For membership information, check the Friends' website: www.friendsoftheguelphpubliclibrary.ca

Addresses for Action

Community members may contact City Council directly—
 Telephone: General Inquiries: (519) 822-1260
 Address: City Hall, 59 Carden Street, Guelph ON, N1H 3A1
 Email : mayor@guelph.ca
 email Councillors directly in this format:
firstname.lastname@guelph.ca (e.g.



Off the Cuff (Report)

The **City of Guelph Corporate Review** published by George B.Cuff & Associates Ltd, Management Consultants, Spruce Grove, Alberta in November, 2004 at a cost of \$100,000 reads like an introductory course in public administration and human relations. It consists of an **Executive Summary** (22 pages), **Volume One: The Governance Context** (159 pages), and **Volume Two: The Administrative Context** (78 pages). While it is not our purpose to provide a detailed summary nor a critique of its contents, it is useful to look at what it says about public library service in our community, and some of the **Review's** recurring themes which impinge on any decision to build a new main branch library.

The section dealing with Agencies, Boards and Commissions (ABCs) includes a short but very positive description of library service in Guelph. The Report notes that the Library Board plays an active role in the affairs of the library and has developed a strategic plan; Guelph citizens support the library and their use per capita is one of the highest in Canada; and library staff are involved in developing their own business (action) plans. There are no required meetings with Council; contact with City Hall is through Library Board minutes, and meetings with the human resources, labour relations, payroll and finance departments. One of the very significant needs facing the library is the need for space, especially for the core collection. The library is prepared to wait for an appropriate building "which is done right" (I, 101). Cuff goes on to say that "it should be possible to find appropriate and timely ways to meet the needs of City Hall, the Library ... through constructive discussion with the relevant parties" (I, 103).

The need for constructive discussion and for long-range planning are clearly two of the key recurring themes in the report. Here are some direct quotations from the report which illustrate these needs:

"One of the very significant needs facing the library is the need for space, especially for the core collection."

- ❑ Council with the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) "will make decisions which [will] be in the best interests of our citizens" (I, 158)
- ❑ "the Mayor needs to recognize her responsibility for shaping the new Council into a body of leaders capable of exercising the mandate through the election process" (I, 8)
- ❑ "an effective and balanced approach to public participation [on the part of Council] would reflect respect for those attending meetings and attentiveness to their presentations ...involvement in committees, boards, commissions and task forces" (I, 29)

The complete text of the Cuff Report is available online at <http://guelph.ca/cityhall.cfm>
Click on Quick Links and select Cuff Report

- ❑ "An effective Council needs to assure itself that it has sufficient information on the key policy issues that enable it to make informed choices. This is one of its more important roles." (I, 37)
- ❑ "The Mayor must lead - and this requires a sense of personal vision for the future of the community." (I, 41)
- ❑ "Council needs to be aware of the value of these boards (e.g. Library Board) and ensure that there are appropriate policies and protocols in place to sustain them and nurture their ability to meet the needs of the City." (I, 104)
- ❑ "The leaders of the key City-funded organizations (e.g. Police, Library, Museum) need a clear sense of their role in the overall context and how they can be viewed as adding real value." (II, 44)

As we begin a new year, we strongly recommend that Council heed these recommendations of the Cuff report; that it work to improve relations with all its boards, and that it be responsive to the needs of its citizens who value libraries, reading and literacy as fundamental rights. The Library Board and staff, and the Friends of the Guelph Public Library are willing to do their part. It's time to open the doors and establish effective communications, mutual trust, and a plan for the future. A productive and meaningful partnership is possible.

Report of the Chair

On January 29, 2005 the Friends of the Guelph Public Library marks its first anniversary as your organization dedicated to promoting libraries, reading and literacy in our community. The past year has certainly been a challenging one for us, but we also believe it has been a successful one.

The most difficult challenge for us has been dealing with a new City Council whose actions have been totally unpredictable. From our point of view, the need for a new main library is certainly clear, and the best location for the library at this time is the post office on Wyndham Street, a site recommended by Monteith Consultants (2002), and approved by the previous Council (September 2003), our Library Board, and Chief Librarian, Norman McLeod. However, these are not the views shared by many on this Council. As a result, your Executive has constantly monitored their actions and has been quick to respond through the press and other media. We have also been proactive: writing letters, talking with individual councillors, and sharing our newsletters with them. We will continue to monitor them and be your voice in the new year.

Working with Norman McLeod, our Chief Librarian, and members of his staff has been a very satisfying and rewarding experience. All of them have been very supportive of our efforts to promote reading and literacy and have been great people to work with. Some of the programs in which the Friends have been involved include: delivering books to St. Joseph's Health Centre, hosting the 20th anniversary of the Bullfrog Mall Library, presenting book prizes to winners of the summer reading program, and selling used books at Main Branch. Ours is a very successful partnership which, I'm sure, will continue in 2005.

Since last January your Executive has met the first Friday of each month, except for July and August. Over this time

we've come to know each other better and have become a cohesive and responsive group. Unfortunately, Susan Percival left us in November because of family commitments. Susan served for many years on the Library Board and was its Chair before her involvement in the Friends. She is one of our founding members. She will be missed.

Your Executive has worked hard at ensuring that you, our members, are well informed about our activities through our website, our newsletter, and through individual e-mails and letters. We have also put in place programs, committees, and policies described in our constitution. There is still work to be done in this area and it is something your Executive will continue to implement in 2005.

How can you help? One of the ways you can assist your Executive is to share your ideas and good advice with us. Please do contact us and/or come to one of our Executive meetings. Your opinions are important to us. This year, we will be working through our membership list and asking you to contribute your ideas and/or one or two hours of your time assisting with one of our programs. These are not onerous tasks, but it does mean that you have an opportunity to become more involved in Friends' activities. We look forward to your continued support.

Bill McKinnie, Chair

Friends' Executive

Bill McKinnie, Chair

Ann Reed, Secretary

Ann Murray, Treasurer

Nelson Reed, Library Board

Members at Large

Anne Wiese, Serena Tene,

Virginia Gillham

Ex-officio Member

Norman McLeod, Chief Librarian

Executive Meetings

are 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 to attend.

Friends of the Guelph Public Library Annual Meeting

Wednesday, April 27, 2005
7:30 pm

Guelph Public Library
Main Branch

Reports and Election of Officers
Social to follow

Darcy Hiltz, Archivist — a new face for Guelph's History

Even though he has very little space in his basement treasure room, Darcy welcomes the challenges of his new position as Archivist at GPL. He has come to the big city of Guelph from his home in New Ross, Nova Scotia, population 2000. After his undergrad degree in History and Sociology, he completed the Master of Library and Information Science at Dalhousie University, graduating in May 2003. This program included courses on Archives, Records Management and Information Policy.

Before coming to Guelph, he worked for the Province of Nova Scotia Archives doing reference work in Records Management. He answered genealogical and legal inquiries related to land records and deeds. In his next position in the archives at Dalhousie University, he was involved with the Walden Studios Collection of glass plate negatives of late nineteenth-century portraits.

His new position in Guelph will keep him busy managing and organizing a large collection of Guelph materials. Some of the challenges he sees in his new job grow from the severe shortage of space. There is no work space where the public can use the materials and there is no room to add new materials or to display some of the treasures. He must develop policies to determine which materials may be less valuable to the purposes of the GPL Archives. He will consider the contentious question whether to keep materials "just because they are old". He is increasing his knowledge and confidence by interacting electronically with colleagues in other archives to develop an appraisal process that will establish criteria for dealing with donations.

Darcy welcomes the curious, the interested, and the inquiring into his new domain.

Proudly Preserving Our Past...

The Archives maintains a growing collection of images consisting of photographic prints and negatives, postcards, drawings, and artwork. The images document the lives and experiences of people, the historic City of Guelph, and the surrounding rural countryside.

Planning to research at the Guelph Public Library? Call ahead. To access any material under the care of the Archives, researchers should contact archivist Darcy Hiltz directly (824-6220 or by email at dhiltz@library.guelph.on.ca) as information staff cannot retrieve archival material. While Darcy will be happy to help you when he is available, to ensure the best possible service researchers are strongly encouraged to contact him in advance if they intend to use archival material. The Library is also able to provide contact information for professional researchers and heritage consultants. Check out the Library website to access the local history data base.



...and Embracing the Future



Chief Librarian Norman McLeod reports that 2004 was the most successful year in library history!!! Over 1,370,000 items were circulated from the library's four branches. One of the most interesting things to manifest itself in 2004 has been the evidence that Guelph residents are using the Internet to use the public library in record numbers. The number of items placed on hold went up by an astounding 185% and the number of items renewed over the net went up by 122%. The Internet has given libraries, and in particular this library, a whole slew of new ways of providing service to users.

For 2005, our Chief Librarian looks forward to the return to service of the bookmobile, now scheduled for March; updates on progress will be provided as they become available. Also ahead, with a tentative opening date of September 10th, 2005, a South-End Branch Library near the corner of Gordon and Clair. The Library Board is currently negotiating with developers and an announcement is expected sometime this spring.

Friends' 2005 Programs & Activities

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

Ongoing:

Book visits to St. Joseph's Health Centre

January

Marg Moon and Darcy Hiltz to produce
historical cards of Guelph
Promotion & fund-raising activity

February 14

Organize celebration for new bookmobile
Membership drive

March

Promote services to seniors - Internet in-
struction at various libraries: email, using
search engines, etc.

April 27

Annual Meeting, 7:30 p.m., GPL.
Election of officers

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 Bill McKinnie (836-9006 or mckinnie@sympatico.ca) or Ann Murray (836-
9418 or aemurray@rogers.com).

Friends Deliver



Annie Wiese, a Friend of the Guelph Public Library, is also a Library volunteer. A relatively recent Guelphite, she has chosen to become more involved in her community by delivering Library materials to several patrons in the St. Joseph's Health Centre. When notified that a delivery is requested, she will pick up pre-selected materials from Karen Cafarella at the Main Branch and make a convenient daytime or evening visit. It is Annie's preference to have her clients in one location, and while at St. Joseph's, she will try

to contact each, note special requests, track loans within the facility and retrieve any items ready for return to the library. The loan process is completed when materials are returned and Annie forwards any requests and comments to Karen.

While the initial purpose of the visit is the delivery of Library materials, the visit more often becomes a social call, rewarding for both client and Annie. In the past few months, everyone involved has come to look forward to the library visits; Annie's pre-teen sons Alex and Ethan have on occasion joined their mother, and clients have become good friends and members of an extended family.

With her sincere and enthusiastic nature, Annie is a welcome visitor. She shares with patrons her interest in the arts and her plans to join the Community Roots Studio in the new year, her experiences as a painter/decorator and accounts of her young sons. A registered practitioner of reflexology, Annie can also offer sessions to relieve stress and tension. Annie brings to her visits not only library service, but also the gifts of friendship and good cheer – all much appreciated by her patrons.

Library delivery service to St. Joseph's Health Centre, an extension of a long-time outreach to shut-ins, is co-ordinated by GPL staff member Karen Carafello. Home delivery may be requested by patrons who medically qualify; they may also be referred by family, friends or a representative of their place of residence. Informal conversations with other residents may also lead to interest in this service. Deliveries are currently made to clients at St. Joseph's Health Centre, other local facilities (Heritage House, Village of Riverside Glen) and individual home-bound library patrons.

Patrons complete a questionnaire which outlines their library needs, reading interests and format preferences. When contacted with a request for materials, Karen then makes a selection of several items of potential interest, notifies the volunteer that a delivery is required and a visit is arranged. Materials are on loan for extended periods (periodicals for one week, books for six weeks) and no late penalties are assessed on overdue items.

Friends of the Guelph Public Library are among community members who have offered their services to this program; many are retirees – others are individuals like Annie with flexible schedules. All would agree with Annie Wiese that when Friends deliver the result is great personal satisfaction for everyone involved.

GUELPH PUBLIC LIBRARY

100 Norfolk Street
Guelph, Ontario
N1H 4J6

Phone: 519-824-6220

Website:

www.friendsoftheguelphpubliclibrary.ca

Mr. Dewey and Friends,

the newsletter of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library, is published three times annually: 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

Explore the GPL Website: finding good reads

Many patrons call or visit the Library to ask for help with finding good materials for their children to read, either for pleasure or for school assignments. Two features of the Library's website can provide this help with the click of a Hot Button.

On the Library Catalogue page, find the tab called "Hot Picks/Awards"; when you click on it, you will have a choice of many categories of lists, some for adults, some for children. You will see such headings as:

- Books for Babies
- Books for reluctant young readers
- All Stars - great sports fiction

Opening these categories will give you a list of recommended titles or Award winners.



Sometimes a certain book will enchant you; if you yearn for more information about the author or similar reading experience, follow these steps:

- Find the title of the book you have just read on the Library Catalogue Search page.
- On the listing, look at the shadowed "Item information" box on the right side
- You will see headings that direct you to other books on the same subject, or to more books by the same author, or to a Google or Webpage link to information about the author.
- In the near future, watch for links to books reviews on this section of

Popular Picks

Patrons of the Guelph Public Library, eager to read the latest best-sellers, have placed their requests in record numbers. A quick survey of 2004 favorites shows local demand for both fiction and nonfiction books and movies. At year-end, the most requested items included



Fiction

The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown (93 holds — from a high of 145+)

A Complicated Kindness by Miriam Toews (83 holds)

Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince by J.K.Rowling (35 holds, and not to be published until mid-July!)



Nonfiction

The Pagan Christ by Tom Harpur (30 holds)

Eats, shoots & leaves by Lynne Truss (still 3 holds on a book about correct punctuation!)

Wrong way: The Fall of Conrad Black by Jacquie McNish (4 holds)



Current favourite DVDs which may be borrowed for a one-week period include:

Bowling for Columbine

Fahrenheit 9/11

Spiderman

Patrons wanting to reserve library materials may do so on the Library website. Go to Library Catalogue, search for your title or author, and click "Request hold on next available copy". You will be contacted when the item becomes available; it will be held for five days. Still waiting? you can also check your place on the waiting list by accessing your online account information.