

Mr. Dewey and Friends

Newsletter of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library

Friends of the Guelph Public Library... Where Do We Go From Here?

American steel magnate and multimillionaire Andrew Carnegie believed strongly in the redistribution of excess wealth, but he was vehemently opposed to 'almsgiving' or 'charity'. As a result, when he embarked on his legendary program to provide funding for nearly 3000 public library buildings across North America, the grants, though significant, never covered the entire construction or start-up costs of the buildings for which they were granted.

As a result, and as Carnegie had hoped, community groups, both named and unnamed, evolved to address themselves to raising the remaining necessary funds. Thus began the North American concept of **Friends of the Library**; support groups which, for more than a century, have engaged in both practical and advocacy support for their libraries.

In Guelph at the turn of the 21st Century, as was the case across North America 100 years earlier, the Friends group was galvanized by a building initiative. In 1900 it was a matter of augmenting the resources made available by Andrew Carnegie. In our case, in 2004, there was an acute need to make the point with citizens and with City Council, that the need for an enormously upgraded main library facility in the downtown core was both immediate and crucial.

The majority of councillors elected in November 2006 appear to understand the need for a renewed central library; however pressure on the twin issues of advocacy and physical facilities cannot be allowed to wane. ***In the 2007 municipal budget process, the Central Library Building Project was, for the fourth year in succession, relegated to the final year of the City's capital budget projection. This puts it into 2011, after the next election year, and potentially subject to the vagaries of an unknown council. Public pressure, led by the Friends, must continue if this initiative is to become a reality.***

Without neglecting this essential goal, it is appropriate now for the Friends of the Guelph Public Library to broaden their focus to include the other kinds of sup-

port activities common to Friends groups. Friends routinely support literacy programs, workshops and book clubs. They advocate for their library in public forums, among friends and acquaintances and with politicians, and they raise funds to provide physical resources and special acquisitions beyond the scope of the tax-supported Library budget.

In its short life, The Friends of the Guelph Public Library has supported book clubs, reading programs, author events, social events and the relaunch of the bookmobile. In the coming year, the plan is to continue and to expand such support activities. A major fund-raising book sale is planned for the Fall of 2007 with the long-range goal of making it an annual event and ultimately establishing a book store in the new central library.

These are exciting plans and possibilities, but they cannot happen without you. Your membership fees provide most of the financial resources of the group. We count on you to remain informed about Library issues so that you can advocate informally in your daily life. In addition, your willingness to volunteer is crucial to the continued effectiveness of the Friends. Elsewhere in this publication you will find information about membership renewal, a discussion of the satisfaction of volunteering, and details of specific volunteer needs and opportunities. The Friends of the Guelph Public Library is not a sustainable group without your help. Please give serious consideration to becoming actively involved with the future of the Friends and the Library.

Virginia Gillham, Chair
Friends of the Guelph Public Library

I would like to compliment the Friends of the Guelph Public Library for keeping this important issue alive in our community.

Karen Farbridge
Mayor, City of Guelph



**Message from Mayor
Karen Farbridge**

It can be said that local public libraries are a cornerstone – an indispensable part – of life in Canada, of life in our community. They symbolize a quest to share information and as a result, to promote values

such as understanding and tolerance. Public libraries foster learning, offer access to information, support education, encourage dialogue, and stimulate the imagination.

I fondly remember afternoons spent at public libraries as a child. Images of the public libraries in Aurora, Ontario and Mountain View, California remain vivid in my memory for the time I spent with my brothers and parents exploring the world of literature. The privilege to make use of these delightful buildings filled with books, audio and visual records, and a wealth of information in a variety of formats is, in my opinion, a truly wonderful gift. To support that privilege, communities must support the buildings themselves, along with the collections they house.

A new main library branch – revitalized and expanded to meet the needs of a growing community and growing collections – will add an important

and rich dimension to life in Guelph. I applaud the search committee for its ongoing efforts in sourcing the best site for a new main branch for Guelph. The pursuit towards a new main branch in the city's downtown is important for the reasons I reference above, but also because public libraries play other, less formal but equally important roles in community life. They serve as communal meeting spaces where people and families can interact. At their best, public libraries offer space to read and reflect, and house important collections that are relevant for all segments of the community. I always enjoy my time in libraries, and I look forward to a day in the future when we cross paths in a new downtown branch.

At this time, the project is scheduled for 2011 in our capital budget. However, Council has asked the Finance, Administration and Corporate Services Committee to consider how we can move the project forward.

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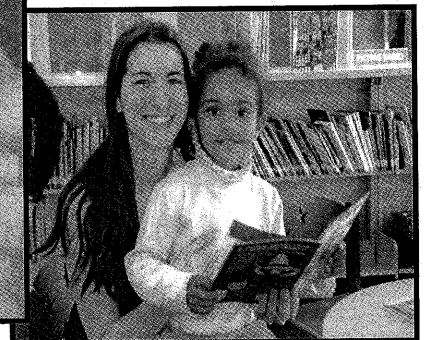
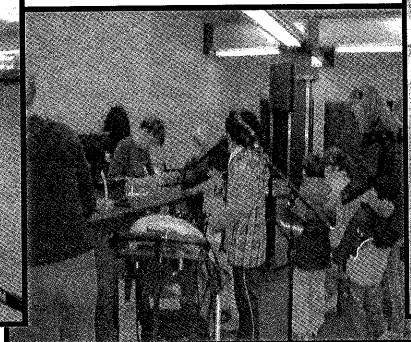
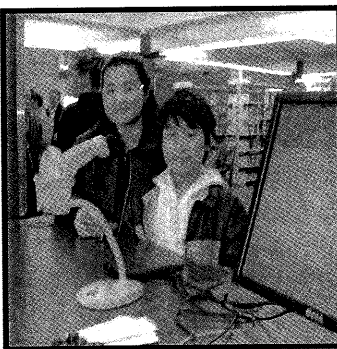
Karen Farbridge
Mayor, City of Guelph



Hans and Ine Molijn with
Karen Farbridge

**Westminster Square Branch Library
Official Opening, Saturday, November 4, 2007**

Happy patrons — families, teens and adults — enjoy their first day of library service in south end Guelph. Delighted staff, trustees and municipal representatives welcomed a large crowd of enthusiastic residents and library patrons. Photos in this issue of Mr. Dewey were taken on opening day.



Honoring Eileen Hammill, Friend of the Library

Honorary membership in The Friends of the Guelph Public Library is offered, on an exceedingly selective basis, to individuals whose activities in support of Library service in Guelph have been outstanding. The activities and accomplishments of 2007 honoree, Eileen Hammill, present a formidable standard against which to compare future candidates for this honour.

Eileen's official association with the Guelph Public Library, as a trustee, dates from 1976; however her emotional connection with the library began in early childhood.

Eileen was born in Guelph. She is a graduate of Central Public School, Guelph Collegiate and McMaster University, and a lifelong reader. Eileen grew up in a home filled with books and began to work her way through much of the world's classic literature at a young age. Summers spent in the country provided extra opportunity for reading. She says she moved from her home library to the public library during her elementary school years because she 'ran out of books!' Her father, feeling that certain volumes from his own library were inappropriate for a young girl, caused at least one of them to disappear. Ever resourceful...Eileen went to the Library! She has never looked back. The proximity of Central School, and later GCVI, to the Library allowed her to borrow a book after school, read it overnight, and repeat the process the next day. Thus began a heavy, lifelong, patronage of the Guelph Public Library.

Eileen joined the Library Board in 1976. With the exception of an interval when she moved out of Guelph, she has been a trustee ever since. During her time as a Guelph Library trustee, Eileen has served as Chair of the Guelph Library Board, Chair of the Midwestern Regional Library system board, leader of the committee which shepherded the change-over from the Midwestern regional system to SOLS (Southern Ontario Library System), and the only female member of the 1980's provincial government task force on public library funding. In 1990 she received the James Bain medal as Ontario Trustee of the Year.

Eileen is quick to compliment Chief Librarian Norman McLeod for the many positive administrative changes introduced during the period of tenure they have shared:

- A cosmetic refurbishing of public spaces.
- The organization of the branch system to take popular resources to the people in the most fiscally prudent manner possible.
- The timely implementation of sophisticated information technology.
- The formalization of an efficient information resource selection system.
- The implementation of a systematic weeding system.
- The development of a strong and appropriately deployed contingent of professional staff members.

In the near future, Eileen looks forward to:

- The completion of the site selection process for a new central library.
- The beginning of construction of the new central library.
- The addition of one more branch on the east side of the city.



Eileen Hammill continues to be a passionate supporter of Library service in Guelph and beyond. Her breadth of knowledge, her deep understanding of Library service and her extraordinary political acumen combine to be an invaluable resource for which the users of the Guelph Public Library system over the past thirty years need to be extremely thankful.



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

Friends of the Guelph Public Library

Executive

Bill McKinnie, Past Chair
Virginia Gillham, Chair
Wendy Ashlock, Secretary
Ann Murray, Treasurer
Mary Mulholland, Advocacy

Members at Large
Marjorie Bethune
Liz Macrae

Ex-Officio Members
Norman McLeod,
Chief Librarian
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.

Annual Meeting April 18, 2007

The 2007 annual meeting of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library will take place in the second floor auditorium of the main Library at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, April 18, 2007. We hope you will make an extra effort to be present for some important discussion of the future direction of the group.

As stressed earlier in this issue, we cannot reduce our vigilance on the subject of the renewal of the main library; however your Executive is anxious to increase involvement in a variety of fund-raising and literacy activities in support of the Library. We need your input to help formulate this diversified direction, and we need your enthusiasm and willingness to become involved.

One of the high points of this meeting will be the induction of Eileen Hammill as an honorary member of The Friends of the Guelph Public Library. A description of Eileen's amazing dedication, enormous skill and dogged determination in support of the Library, beginning more than 30 years ago, appears earlier in this newsletter.

Our guest speaker for the evening will be Josephine Bryant, the CEO of the Toronto Public Library. The very appropriate focus of her remarks will be The Library as a Destination. Ms. Bryant heads the largest public library system in Canada with 99 branches and 11 million circulating items. In recent years there have been numerous refurbishing and building projects within the TPL system. As Guelph begins to design a new central library, there is much in the Toronto experience from which we can benefit.



The evening, with its focus on the future, promises to be both challenging and informative. Current and new members of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library are encouraged to attend.

Can you help?

The Executive has a significant need of a membership chair to process new and renewed memberships and to be responsible for occasional blanket electronic mailings. Basic facility with Excel is desirable for this responsibility. Please contact a member of the Executive if you are able to help with this task.

Volunteers are needed to deliver books to Guelph library patrons at various locations throughout the city. Contact Karen Cafarella at the Main Branch, 824-6220.

Friends of the Guelph Public Library Membership renewals

As we approach the beginning of a new membership year, it is time once again to renew your membership. A form to assist you is included (p. 8). If you are already a member and none of your contact information has changed, you need only fill in your name, attach your cheque, and convey it to any branch of the Library or a member of the Executive.

The Friends of the Guelph Public Library membership list presently numbers about 200. Membership dues, which remain unchanged, are our major, predictable source of revenue. Please help to support the literacy and advocacy work of this group by becoming a member or renewing your membership for the 2007/8 year.



Friends Giant Book Sale

Reduce the inventory in your house and help the Library at the same time!

What: Our First (annual?) Friends Giant Book Sale

When: Saturday, October 27, 2007 10:00am - 5:00 pm

Where: Old Quebec Street Mall

What else: Donations from the public and used library materials (books, music, videos, prints, posters, puzzles, games and magazines)

Why: To raise money for Library programs and equipment

How: Beginning one month before the sale, donations can be dropped off at the main library downtown or at any of the branches. Pickup will also be arranged upon request.

Who: We need you, your friends, colleagues, school groups and other organizations to donate and to help make this event a success.

What to do NOW:

Start a box (or two or three or four) and collect potential donations. In the coming months we'll let you know the details of pickup and delivery.

Let us know (Marj Bethune 519-836-4615 or a.m.bethune@sympatico.ca) if you are interested in helping in some way. Our most immediate need is for a publicity coordinator and a coordinator of volunteers.

Volunteer Leadership and Other Opportunities:

Coordinator, Collection and Storage:

Vehicles and movers to collect small quantities of books from the drop off locations twice weekly and move them to the storage area. Pick up donations from homes as needed. Move books from the storage area to the Old Quebec Street Mall for the sale. Pack up unsold books after the Sale.

Coordinator, Storage Area Sorting:

Sorters to organize, box according to subject, and store donations on a regular basis during the month at the storage facility.

Coordinator, Publicity:

Promote the Book Sale including posters, flyers, print media, email, websites, advertising and press releases.

Coordinator, Book Sale Organizer:

Set up two days before the Sale – tables, unpack and organize sale items. Sale day activities – maintain organization, greeters, hospitality, checkout, cleanup.

Coordinator, Volunteers:

Call, maintain database, schedule, notify, train, communicate.





Happy staff ready to lend a hand to their new patrons.

Like the fingers on a hand, the Branches of the Guelph Public Library system reach out across the community offering information, reading, entertainment, community services, and help. The latest finger, the Westminster Square Branch, reaches far into Guelph's south end offering a beautiful new environment for library services. It is located on Farley Road, near the intersection of Gordon Street and Clair Road.

According to the new branch supervisor, Barb Baxter, its patrons run the gamut from parents with tots in tow to older students studying quietly to businessmen plugging in their laptops to adults looking for a good book or movie for pleasure or edification. Barb has been a librarian with the GPL for 25 years and has watched the changes from a single library to the large city-wide system with four branches and a bookmobile. She has also experienced the change from the simplicity of card catalogues and Recordak check-out to the complexities of a fully-automated and networked system.

When she moved from her position as the Circulation Manager at the Main Branch to become the Branch Supervisor, she became responsible for all services in the building from reference inquiries to circulation to cataloguing.

She and her staff enjoy hearing the children laughing in the castle in the children's area. They find it rewarding when a patron expresses enjoyment with a certain

Westminster Square Branch Library

book, or satisfaction with a book that helped with the building of a new deck or training a new dog.

Since the new branch is so welcoming to all, staff are challenged to accommodate the needs of a diverse clientele: inquisitive preschoolers, high-spirited young people, online researchers of all ages and patrons seeking a comfortable place to enjoy a good book or a current magazine.

Her staff is a well-experienced group of part- and full-time people ready to help the patrons. Her clerks are Linda and Lisa who have spent their entire working careers at the GPL; Gail, a former teacher from PEI who has worked for 20 years in GPL; Erin who has experience in academic and government libraries; Carmela, a former business owner; and Jean who has worked in both the for-profit and non-profit sectors. Michael and Laura, the Sunday clerks, are both University of Guelph students. Pages Laura, Stephanie, Paola, Savannah and Michael complete the team.

In the three months since this new branch opened, patrons have enjoyed its spaciousness and high ceilings, its beautiful colours and especially the lovely light flooding in from the many windows in the tower.

Take a trip to the sunny south side of Guelph where the staff of the new Westminster Square Branch Library will be glad to give you a hand.



Barb Baxter,
Branch Supervisor

Susan Ratcliffe

with notes from Barb Baxter



GUELPH PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

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the newsletter of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library, is published three times annually: spring, fall and winter. Next issue: June 2007.

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

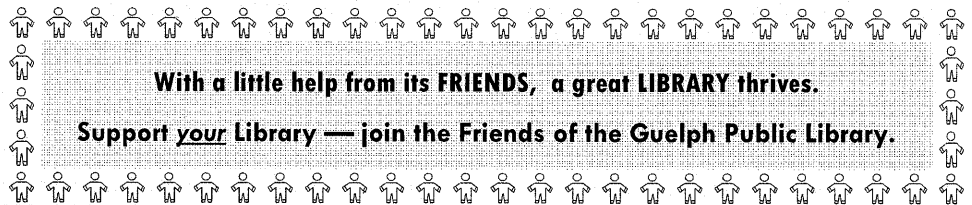
Newsletter Editors
Susan Ratcliffe, Marilyn Crooks

What's new in the Library?

The Children's department has just purchased an Early Literacy Computer. It is a "stand alone" system that contains 26 top-rated literacy games and activities for children ages 2-8. Staff members who have worked/played with it are quite impressed. This new addition to library services in the main branch is proving to be a big hit and we have received many comments about its usefulness. Tom Baxter has become our resident expert (having played the most) and will happily share his expertise.

In early 2007, Library staff will continue to expand community outreach activities with a series of March Break programs, technology based seminars, a hockey-themed program for young adults, an evening for gardeners and a May quilt show. Suggestions and ideas for future programs are welcome.

Kerry Hannah, Children's Services



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 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

2007/08 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) _____