

Mr. Dewey and Friends

Newsletter of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library

Ask Questions — Gather Information — Evaluate — Decide ... and VOTE!

The Friends of the Guelph Public Library and the 2006 Guelph Municipal Election

The role of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library in the forthcoming municipal election is *not* to endorse or campaign against any individual candidate. The group's mission is to ensure that the issue of the need for a new central library in the downtown core retains a high public profile, and that sufficient, accurate, detailed information on the subject is available to ensure that voters are fully and properly informed. The group is engaged in urging voters to enquire at a detail level about the views of potential candidates on the subject of a new central library, so that they can choose wisely when they are deciding for whom to vote.

Virginia Gillham, Chair
Friends of the Guelph Public Library



Ask Questions —

Friends of the Guelph Public Library need answers to these questions. Ask the candidates at every opportunity — meetings and debates, by telephone or email, in small group gatherings...or even one-on-one.

Questions for Mayoralty candidates:

1. What is your position on a new headquarters library in Guelph's downtown core?
2. As Mayor, what leadership will you provide to ensure that this new library is built?
3. Will you commit to move this issue forward beginning in 2006, so that construction can begin as early as possible?

Questions for potential Councillors:

1. What is your position on a new headquarters library in Guelph's downtown core?
2. Will you commit to move this issue forward beginning in 2006, so that construction can begin as early as possible?

Attend Ward meetings and Mayoralty Debates for the answers!

Check the Guelph Civic League website for the schedule of candidate meetings.

Municipal Election Information

City of Guelph (www.guelph.ca)



- candidates, voting list, ward boundaries, FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

Guelph Civic League (www.guelphcivicleague.ca)




- candidates, candidate survey, voting record, 2006 events calendar, ward map

Guelph Public Library



Visit in person for voters' list and polling information.

Vote !
November 13, 2006



Gather Information —

In early October, the Friends asked all candidates to complete and return this short survey:

1. The downtown library was built in 1965, when our population was 43,000. Today it is 120,000. Guelph's population has grown at about 2% a year. The library membership has grown at 4% a year.

Given this extraordinary growth, do you agree that the present central library is inadequate for present and future needs?

2. The average size of libraries in municipalities similar to Guelph is 1 square foot of space per capita. Guelph has less than half of that. The 1999 Monteith study found that Guelph's library had the smallest floor space, yet one of the largest collections among comparable cities (Cambridge, Barrie, Brantford, Oakville). Since then, more patrons, books and computer technology have been added each year.

Do you agree that Guelph urgently needs a new and larger headquarters library to serve its residents?

3. Building additional branches does not solve the problem. In fact, each new branch places greater pressures on the downtown central library to support its functions. Centralizing administrative, management, computer, archival, information, extension and many other services in a headquarters is also the most cost-effective way to run the library system.

Do you support the building of a new downtown library no later than 2010?

Mayor	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3	Comments/Qualifications
Mark Briestensky	—	—	—	No Response
Karen Farbridge	yes	yes	yes	Strongly supportive. Should move forward in 2006.
Bev Izzillo-Ustation	yes	yes	yes	Retain current location. Council to decide priority and timing.
Kate Quarrie	—	—	—	No Response
Ward 1	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3	Comments/Qualifications
John Allan	yes	yes	yes	Contact for more information.
Laura Baily	yes	yes	yes	Strongly supports main library downtown. Member of Site Selection Committee, hopes to forward final recommendation soon.
Bob Bell	yes	yes	yes	City should buy back post office immediately after the election.
Karen Farrelly	yes	yes	yes	Disappointed Post Office not acquired. Need suitable central location.
Rocco Furfaro	yes	qualified	yes	Supports 'agreed upon' timeframe. Confident that when new location is announced it will be superior to the previous choice.
Eugene Gromczynski	—	—	—	No Response
Ward 2	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3	Comments/Qualifications
Vicki Beard	—	—	—	No Response
Andrew Colwill	—	—	—	No Response
Ray Ferraro	yes	qualified	qualified	Not urgent. As soon as possible. Enlarging existing an option. OK to prioritize after Civic Admin Centre.
Ian Findlay	yes	yes	yes	No additional comment
Matthew Knock	—	—	—	No Response
Dan Moziar	—	—	—	No Response
Gary Walton	—	—	—	No Response

Candidate responses are those submitted at time of publication of this issue.

Gather Information —

Ward 3	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3	Comments/Qualifications
Craig Chamberlain	yes	qualified	qualified	Cannot give a 'blank cheque' since costs and location are as yet undefined. Aware of benefits of downtown library, but would like more public consultation to demonstrate broader community support.
June Hofland	yes	yes	yes	Strongly supportive. Investing in Arts and culture brings economic benefit.
Maggie Laidlaw	yes	yes	yes	Strongly supportive. Incensed that voting bloc on council moved initiative to end of capital projection. Appalled Post Office allowed to slip away. Will work for this initiative.
Dan Schnurr	—	—	—	No Response
Charlie Whittaker	yes	yes	yes	Completely supportive of need, urgency & downtown location. Impressed by economic and use statistics.
Ward 4	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3	Comments/Qualifications
David Birtwistle	yes	qualified	qualified	Enlarge existing facility
Cam Guthrie	—	—	—	No Response
Gloria Kovach	yes	no	no	Not urgent. Supports branches. City can't afford to prioritize central library with current funding.
Mike Salisbury	yes	yes	yes	Member of Friends. GPL instrumental in his success as a business person in Guelph. Strong public library is "a need, not a want".
Ward 5	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3	Comments/Qualifications
John Alves	—	—	—	No Response
Lise Burcher	yes	yes	yes	Need new headquarters library to serve as cultural hub and catalyst for downtown investment. With population increase, reinvestment in key cultural facility is long overdue. Must recognize, foster current high level of library use.
Sal De Monte	yes	yes	yes	Needs more data. Suggests partnership with University of Guelph Library. Interested in looking into the subject.
Dan Douma	yes	qualified	qualified	Strongly supportive of central location
Leanne Piper	yes	yes	yes	Direct link between cultural facilities and economic development. Fully supportive and sooner than 2010. Has added a statement of library support to her campaign website.
Ward 6	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3	Comments/Qualifications
Christine Billings	—	—	—	No Response
Peter Hamtak	—	—	—	No Response
Bill McAdams	—	—	—	No Response
Ken Morgan	yes	yes	yes	Supports new library downtown; "will do what is necessary to make this happen".
Karl Wettstein	yes	yes	yes	Site selection has taken too long; time to "get on with it".
Anonymous Replies				
Anonymous 1	yes	yes	yes	"Pressure the new council for action!"
Anonymous 2	yes	yes	yes	Strongly agrees with all 3 question statements. Issue has taken much too long. Not a "want". Guelph needs a new main library.

Gather Information

The Friends of the Guelph Public Library are supportive members of the Guelph Civic League which has published the voting record of the 2003-2006 City Council on 24 motions that relate most significantly to GCL values. The results of two critical Library issues are reproduced below.

<p>Guelph Civic League Value – PUBLIC SERVICES</p> <p>The Guelph Civic League believes that a high quality of life includes well-funded city services, especially library services.</p> <p>How did your representatives vote?</p> <p>! The majority voted in favour of our public services values.</p>	<p>Guelph City Council – Voting Record</p> <p>Library: Slash Funding 23 March 2004</p> <p>THE MOTION: Hamak motion to cut the library operating budget by \$1,833,500.</p> <p>+ indicates a vote aligned with GCL values Defeated 10-3</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>+</td><td>Bailey, Laura</td><td>WARD 1</td><td>OPPOSE</td></tr> <tr><td>+</td><td>Billings, Christine</td><td>WARD 2</td><td>OPPOSE</td></tr> <tr><td>+</td><td>Birtwistle, David</td><td>WARD 3</td><td>OPPOSE</td></tr> <tr><td>+</td><td>Burchar, Lise</td><td>WARD 5</td><td>OPPOSE</td></tr> <tr><td>+</td><td>Downer, Cathy</td><td>WARD 7</td><td>OPPOSE</td></tr> <tr><td>+</td><td>Feramo, Ray</td><td>WARD 12</td><td>OPPOSE</td></tr> <tr><td>-</td><td>Furfaro, Rocco</td><td>WARD 3</td><td>FOR</td></tr> <tr><td>-</td><td>Hamak, Peter</td><td>WARD 6</td><td>FOR</td></tr> <tr><td>+</td><td>Kovach, Gloria</td><td>WARD 4</td><td>OPPOSE</td></tr> <tr><td>+</td><td>Laidlaw, Maggie</td><td>WARD 2</td><td>OPPOSE</td></tr> <tr><td>+</td><td>Mozia, Dan</td><td>WARD 2</td><td>OPPOSE</td></tr> <tr><td>-</td><td>Schnurr, Dan</td><td>WARD 8</td><td>FOR</td></tr> <tr><td>+</td><td>Quarrie, Kate</td><td>WARD 1</td><td>OPPOSE</td></tr> </table>	+	Bailey, Laura	WARD 1	OPPOSE	+	Billings, Christine	WARD 2	OPPOSE	+	Birtwistle, David	WARD 3	OPPOSE	+	Burchar, Lise	WARD 5	OPPOSE	+	Downer, Cathy	WARD 7	OPPOSE	+	Feramo, Ray	WARD 12	OPPOSE	-	Furfaro, Rocco	WARD 3	FOR	-	Hamak, Peter	WARD 6	FOR	+	Kovach, Gloria	WARD 4	OPPOSE	+	Laidlaw, Maggie	WARD 2	OPPOSE	+	Mozia, Dan	WARD 2	OPPOSE	-	Schnurr, Dan	WARD 8	FOR	+	Quarrie, Kate	WARD 1	OPPOSE	<p>Guelph Civic League Value – PUBLIC SERVICES</p> <p>The Guelph Civic League believes that great cities have great public libraries and Guelph is long overdue for a new one.</p> <p>How did your representatives vote?</p> <p>! The majority voted in favour of our public services values.</p>	<p>Guelph City Council – Voting Record</p> <p>Library: Delete as a Priority 6 December 2004</p> <p>THE MOTION: Schaur's motion that the New Main Branch Library be deleted from Council priorities for 2005.</p> <p>+ indicates a vote aligned with GCL values Defeated 8-5</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>+</td><td>Bailey, Laura</td><td>WARD 1</td><td>OPPOSE</td></tr> <tr><td>-</td><td>Billings, Christine</td><td>WARD 2</td><td>FOR</td></tr> <tr><td>+</td><td>Birtwistle, David</td><td>WARD 3</td><td>OPPOSE</td></tr> <tr><td>+</td><td>Burchar, Lise</td><td>WARD 5</td><td>OPPOSE</td></tr> <tr><td>+</td><td>Downer, Cathy</td><td>WARD 7</td><td>OPPOSE</td></tr> <tr><td>-</td><td>Feramo, Ray</td><td>WARD 12</td><td>FOR</td></tr> <tr><td>-</td><td>Furfaro, Rocco</td><td>WARD 3</td><td>FOR</td></tr> <tr><td>-</td><td>Hamak, Peter</td><td>WARD 6</td><td>FOR</td></tr> <tr><td>+</td><td>Kovach, Gloria</td><td>WARD 4</td><td>OPPOSE</td></tr> <tr><td>+</td><td>Laidlaw, Maggie</td><td>WARD 2</td><td>OPPOSE</td></tr> <tr><td>+</td><td>Mozia, Dan</td><td>WARD 2</td><td>OPPOSE</td></tr> <tr><td>-</td><td>Schnurr, Dan</td><td>WARD 8</td><td>FOR</td></tr> <tr><td>+</td><td>Quarrie, Kate</td><td>WARD 1</td><td>OPPOSE</td></tr> </table>	+	Bailey, Laura	WARD 1	OPPOSE	-	Billings, Christine	WARD 2	FOR	+	Birtwistle, David	WARD 3	OPPOSE	+	Burchar, Lise	WARD 5	OPPOSE	+	Downer, Cathy	WARD 7	OPPOSE	-	Feramo, Ray	WARD 12	FOR	-	Furfaro, Rocco	WARD 3	FOR	-	Hamak, Peter	WARD 6	FOR	+	Kovach, Gloria	WARD 4	OPPOSE	+	Laidlaw, Maggie	WARD 2	OPPOSE	+	Mozia, Dan	WARD 2	OPPOSE	-	Schnurr, Dan	WARD 8	FOR	+	Quarrie, Kate	WARD 1	OPPOSE
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Evaluate and Decide

Friends of the Guelph Public Library urge all eligible voters to become involved in the election of members of the 2007 Guelph City Council which will direct our city for the next four years. Become acquainted with local issues, consider candidate performance and proposals, and assess their potential for effective municipal governance. Use this summary to evaluate candidate responses to library issues. **Well-informed electors make wise decisions!**

Everything you always wanted to know about the Library

“The Library is not a part of our community that it would be nice to have. It is an essential part of our community that we must have!”
 Hartley Richardson, Winnipeg **Community Leader**

Did you know.....

- The public library is **completely** free. Anyone may use the information resources in the building. Any city resident may join without charge and access all the resources in all formats including electronic. More than 80% of the residents of Guelph have Library cards.
- **About 4% of municipal tax revenue supports Library services.** In 2005, \$1.5 million (less than \$15 per capita and less than the price of one purchased book per capita) was spent for the up-to-date collection of more than 350,000 titles, and electronic information resources.
- **The Library provides :** books, magazines, government information, videos, DVDs, sound recordings, talking books, virtual books, electronic research information, local history including an archives of original documents, genealogical research resources.
- **Interlibrary Loan.** The Library will search for information if it does not exist within the system, and bring it in from another library.
- **The Library subscribes to many electronic databases available to users 24/7.** Members may access, from home, encyclopedias, dictionaries, atlases, magazines and newspapers, career information, historical information, reference books, sound recordings and novels.
- **The norm for public library space for cities of Guelph's size is nearly 1 square foot per capita.** Guelph has less than half that amount.
- In 2005, Guelph residents borrowed 1.43 million items from the public library system, Library staff answered more than 55,000 reference questions and there were more than 325,000 electronic visits to the Library's website.

Why do we need a central library? Branches are cheaper to build and operate.

The branches serve the inexpensive, high traffic needs such as popular reading. The main library is the sole location for: Ordering, Cataloguing, Administration, Reference service, Information resources beyond popular reading, the Archives. Replication of these main library functions in multiple branches would be very bad economics!

Why does the central library need to be located downtown, rather than in one of the outlying commercial areas?

Specialized information services used by all residents must be centralized and accessed easily by public transportation. A city's library is a major cultural institution; great cities (e.g. Toronto, New York, and London, England) have their cultural institutions in the downtown core.

- **Even in its present inadequate condition, Guelph's central library attracts 600,000 person visits each year. Attracting that number of people directly into the downtown core is of major economic importance to the City.**

Please note, it has been determined that the final entry on the spreadsheet of responses to the questionnaire sent to candidates for Mayor and Council, which is identified as 'Anonymous 2' reflects the submission of Vicki Beard, a candidate for City Council in Ward 2.

Anonymous 2	yes	yes	yes	Strongly agrees with all 3 question statements. Issue has taken much too long. Not a "want". Guelph needs a new main library.
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