

Mr. Dewey and Friends

Newsletter of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library

Your Missions (Please Do Choose to Accept Them)

A year ago, The Friends (and their many friends) were enveloped by feverish activity in anticipation of the November, 2006 municipal election. The objective was to ensure that voters considered the need for a new Main Library when they were making election choices.

The new City Council does, indeed, understand the need, and wheels have begun to turn. Two potential sites for such a building have been identified, and a committee including representatives of both the City and the Library will soon begin to examine those options more closely so that a choice can be made and detailed planning can begin. Size (the city has grown by more than 25% since this discussion began) and funding are major issues to be addressed in the coming months. Friends cannot become complacent. In your role as advocate, please continue to ensure that this issue remains central in the minds of your fellow citizens and our elected officials.

In the meantime, the Executive and the Advocacy Committee of the Friends remain busy. A document identifying both short and long term initiatives in support of the Library is in a final draft stage.

The Friends will make a significant gift to the Library in recognition of the forthcoming 125th anniversary celebrations, and they will confirm areas of practical support for the new Main Library. Watch for more detail in the next issue of Mr. Dewey.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find information about a major fundraising book sale, to be held in Old Quebec Street on Saturday, October 27th. Your assistance, your donated books and your attendance to purchase on the big day will all be enormously appreciated.

Finally ... Have you renewed your membership in The Friends? The membership year turns over at the time of the Annual General Meeting in April; however a significant number of past members have not renewed. The price is right and the need is ongoing. Information to help you appears elsewhere in this issue of Mr. Dewey and on the Friends website www.friendsguelphlibrary.ca

Virginia Gillham, Chair
Friends of the Guelph Public Library



Guelph Public Library — 125 years of Service

Planning is underway for a series of events in 2008 to celebrate the 125th birthday of the Guelph Public Library.

Watch for details in *Mr. Dewey* and local media.

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
Jon Wright

Ex-Officio Members

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.

Highlights of the Annual Meeting

The third Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library was held at the Main Branch on Wednesday, April 18, 2007. In addition to the regular business agenda, three special presentations were made.

Eileen Hammill, a staunch and indefatigable Library supporter, received a lifetime membership in the Friends of the Guelph Public Library in recognition of more than three decades of exemplary dedication to Library service in Guelph and Ontario. With humour and grace she described her own involvement, from her childhood borrowing of her mother's card to access the adult department, to the present and her pleasure in the growth of the Guelph Public Library system and plans for additional branches and a new Main Library.

In her acceptance, she noted the early contributions of James Watt, who described his 30 year involvement with the Guelph Public Library as a hobby. "Some hobby", commented Eileen whose Library involvement has been equally long. The Library may have been his hobby but it has been an integral part of our city and our most demographic institution, thanks to Eileen Hammill and her dedicated colleagues.

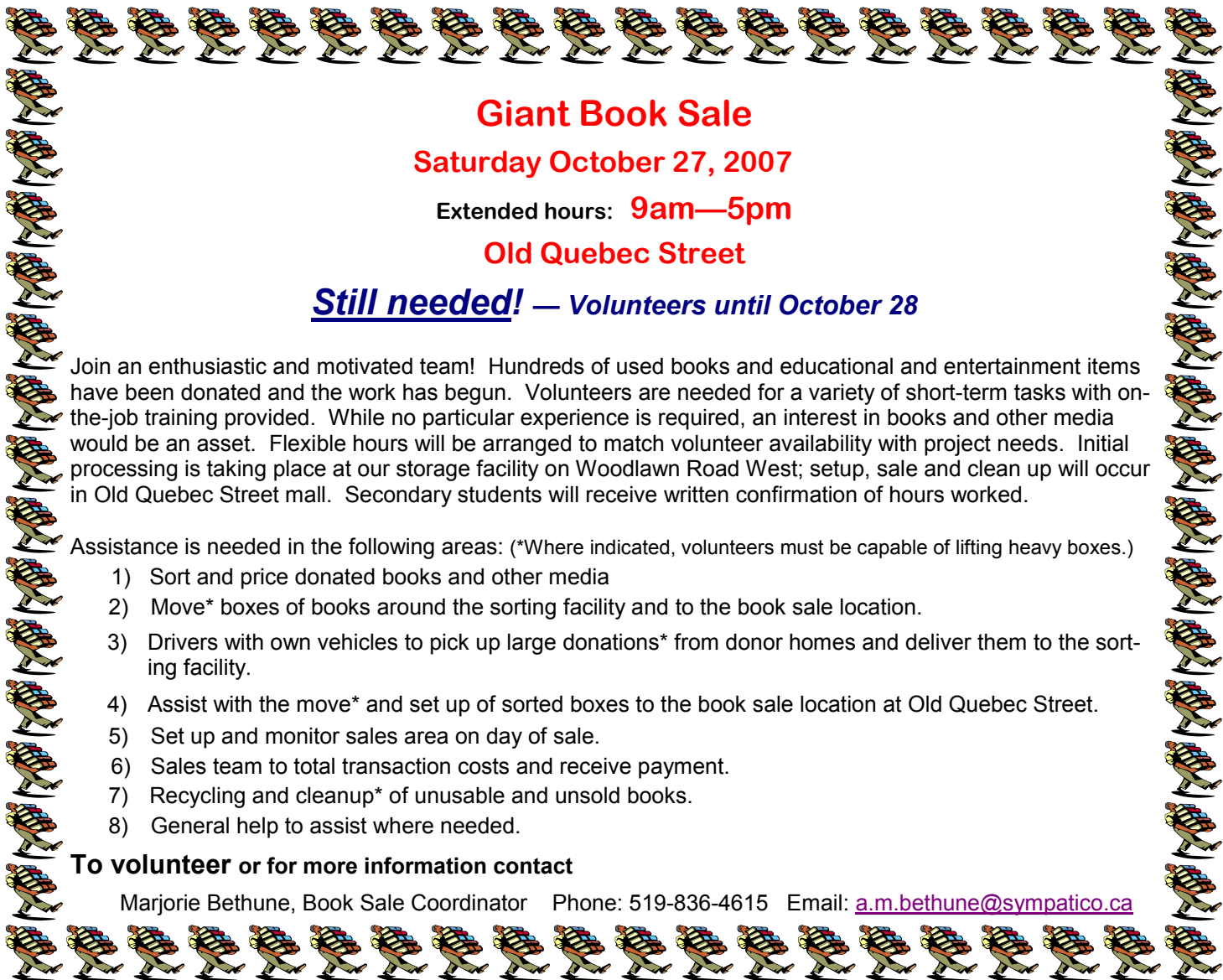
Presentations were also made to two founding members of the Friends of the Guelph Library. Bill McKinnie, a founding member, served as Chair, successfully encouraging many of his friends to become active members. Ann Murray, a charter member, attended the organizational meeting as an interested community member and found herself nominated and acclaimed as the Friend's first Treasurer. Both have served with dedication and professionalism. Thank you, Bill and Ann.

Guest speaker Josephine Baker, CEO of the Toronto Public Library, spoke of *Central Library Mania: Public Libraries and City Building*. She showed slides of various library buildings recently opened in the United States, Canada, South America and Asia and Europe. In each case, the new library building was a focal point of the community, offering traditional library services augmented by many special programs. Highlighting the common theme of community and political support, she described the remarkable buildings and library programs which have resulted. Friends in the capacity audience were encouraged by her optimism, and her confidence that the Guelph community will build an outstanding new Main Branch Library.



Friends of the Guelph Public Library Membership

Have you renewed your Friends membership for 2007/8? 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 renewing your membership and encouraging friends to become involved. For your convenience, a membership form is available on Page 6.



Giant Book Sale
Saturday October 27, 2007
Extended hours: **9am—5pm**
Old Quebec Street

Still needed! — Volunteers until October 28

Join an enthusiastic and motivated team! Hundreds of used books and educational and entertainment items have been donated and the work has begun. Volunteers are needed for a variety of short-term tasks with on-the-job training provided. While no particular experience is required, an interest in books and other media would be an asset. Flexible hours will be arranged to match volunteer availability with project needs. Initial processing is taking place at our storage facility on Woodlawn Road West; setup, sale and clean up will occur in Old Quebec Street mall. Secondary students will receive written confirmation of hours worked.

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

- 1) Sort and price donated books and other media
- 2) Move* boxes of books around the sorting facility and to the book sale location.
- 3) Drivers with own vehicles to pick up large donations* from donor homes and deliver them to the sorting facility.
- 4) Assist with the move* and set up of sorted boxes to the book sale location at Old Quebec Street.
- 5) Set up and monitor sales area on day of sale.
- 6) Sales team to total transaction costs and receive payment.
- 7) Recycling and cleanup* of unusable and unsold books.
- 8) General help to assist where needed.

To volunteer or for more information contact

Marjorie Bethune, Book Sale Coordinator Phone: 519-836-4615 Email: a.m.bethune@sympatico.ca

Behind the Scenes

Book Sale volunteers are busy preparing for the sale — gathering, moving and sorting hundreds of sale items.

Members of the Friends, family and community volunteers are involved in the processing and sale of the hundreds of donations.

Can you help?



Helping to Connect Minds in the Technical Services Department

"The physical book is never more than an ingenious and often beautiful cipher by which the intellectual book is communicated from one mind to another, and the intellectual book is always a structure in the imagination..."

Archibald MacLeish (former Librarian of Congress),

"Of the Librarian's Profession," *Atlantic Monthly* (1940)

In public libraries books still reign supreme.

While academic libraries have seen a gradual shift to electronic text as the primary resource used by students, public libraries have to maintain support for ever popular books while at the same time provide access to an influx of new formats, such as CDs, DVDs, electronic books, digital audio books, electronic journal articles, and online music. In addition, older formats such as magazines, newspapers, video cassettes, and microfilm require ongoing support. The Technical Services Department in the Guelph Public Library processes, describes, and provides access to all these resources.

Public libraries are different from bookstores in that libraries have to ensure that books are returned and made findable again. The processing done to books such as adding labels, security tags, and barcodes (and making the occasional repair) is what makes our library system function smoothly. The Technical Services Department guarantees that books are able to be moved from suppliers to our shelves and then into the hands of the citizens of Guelph and ultimately found on the shelves again.

Technical Services is responsible for the library catalogue which lists the library's holdings of books and other bibliographic resources.

A cataloguer goes one step further than just describing a book and providing a shelf location. The cataloguer also provides access to the intellectual or creative content contained within the books. The cataloguer's tasks include establishing relationships between similar or identical works, assigning subject headings and classifications, and ensuring that titles are properly grouped under the terms that library patrons use to search. Identifying the content within books is necessary to construct links between editions, translations, adaptations, and the same work published in different countries, under different titles, or in different formats. A library catalogue is more than a simple inventory list.

Libraries are not just about lending books—they are about minds connecting with other minds through the content contained within books. A cataloguer facilitates those connections by allowing library users to find and identify the content they want, select the desired format, and finally obtain the item.

Exciting developments are occurring in the tools used

to discover library resources, and these developments are impacting the design of library catalogues. Outside of the library world, Internet search engines, book review sites, online book stores, and social networking services are offering people more opportunities to find out about books. These new developments might explain why circulation of books has increased and not decreased with the rise of the Internet!

With more ways of finding out about books, people are then drawn to the library catalogue where a quick check, and perhaps use of the hold function if the book is checked out, completes the steps of finding, identifying, selecting, and obtaining a book or other resource. Current work in the field of catalogue design involves modeling, researching, and developing the functional requirements to meet these user tasks of finding, identifying, selecting, and obtaining bibliographic resources. The Guelph Public Library catalogue has incorporated links to cover art, book reviews, excerpts, and tables of content which help library patrons in identifying and selecting appropriate resources.

The wealth of the content in a public library is simply astounding. Somewhere in a public library there is a book that is guaranteed to enlighten you, to enthral you, and perhaps to transform you. The barrier to that one book is great—how does one really find it among the hundreds of thousands of books available?

Twenty-one years ago I was both fascinated and frustrated by libraries (with part of the frustration derived from having to do the obligatory time-consuming research in a library and complete essays and assignments on time at university). During a summer job at a government office in 1986, an IBM PC was plunked down on my desk, and I was intrigued that the ministry head office sent a librarian to train me. The connection between computers and libraries was made for me, and I saw how I could serve society by learning to use this new tool, the computer, and by providing new and better ways of letting library users access a library's resources.

After 21 years, I am amazed that most of my initial visions and hopes for libraries have become reality. While technology has provided solutions to finding library resources, technology has also increased the diversity and complexity of those resources, and so the challenge for the future, for the Technical Services Department and the Guelph Public Library, is to strive constantly to fulfill the library's mission in providing free and equitable access to the wealth that is our society's intellectual and creative content.

Thomas Brenndorfer, B.A., M.L.I.S.



Cathy McInnis runs Technical Services as well as the Adult Services Department of the library. And she does it all from an office which was a former coat closet!



L-R: Steve Kraft, head of the Adult Information Services, visits Adele Griesbach, Thomas Brenndorfer, and Henry Wiebe of the Technical Services department.



Mark Couch, Linda Coulombe (in foreground), and Patty Stradiotto process library materials. Sometimes the boxes of books are piled high and the shelves are bursting, but Technical Services staff work hard to keep the books flowing!

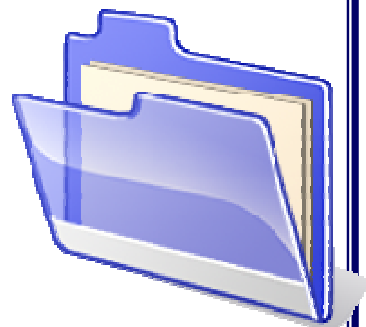
Let your fingers do the walking through Local History

Are you interested in the story of the Sleeman family? Would you like to know more about the Sleeman brewery and its growth in Guelph? Are you interested in the story of the Guelph Lake Dam and its role in the Grand River Conservation Authority? Did you have a family famous in Guelph history? Would you like to find out about some of Guelph's beautiful estate houses?

These topics and others of local interest are often not documented in books of Guelph history and the *Mercury* back issues are not completely indexed. So – how can you continue with your search? The library has a resource that you may not have used before.

The Local History Clipping File consists of eight large filing cabinets filled with newspaper clippings, booklets, pamphlets, newsletters of various organizations and other bits and pieces too small to go on the shelves. They are arranged alphabetically by subject and you can take a file, read happily about your favourite heritage topic, or photocopy materials for your home use.

Whether for research on specific topics, or for just happily browsing through time, you can ask at the Information Desk and get a personal tour.



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 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?

1,000,000 Served at Scottsdale

A brief ceremony was held on August 13th at the Scottsdale branch when Mrs. Elizabeth Connelly and her granddaughter were feted as the millionth borrower of 2007.

To date this year, the Library has been much busier in all areas. System-wide circulation has increased; holds placed by patrons have also increased.



All summer programs saw an increase in participants; the reading clubs were well attended and saw hundreds of young patrons enjoying several hundred books.

Congratulations and thank you to all patrons and Library Staff involved in these successful endeavours!

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) _____