



September 2004  
Volume One, Issue Two

# Mr. Dewey and Friends Newsletter of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library

## More than 3 million circulated! Bullfrog Mall Branch celebrates its 20th birthday

On Saturday, September 11, 2004, the Bullfrog Mall Library, Guelph's first branch library, had a party. The event was organized by the Friends. The library welcomed patrons with real lemon mousse cake, refreshments, a giant bullfrog, banners, balloons, and sunflowers. A background display showed pictures of former staff, minutes of the Library Board, and newspaper clippings.

Among those bringing greetings were her Worship, Mayor Kate Quarrie and our MP, Brenda Chamberlain. Both spoke about the importance of the library in the lo-

cal community and of the influence of reading on people's lives. Master of Ceremonies, Archdeacon Peter Moore, read greetings from our MPP, Liz Sandals.

Eileen Hammill who was on the Library Board in 1984 chairing the Board's Operation and Planning committee, noted the opinion of the experts at the time who predicted that a library located in a mall was doomed to fail. The Board took the risk and Guelph's first branch library opened on Sept. 8, 1984.

The Branch's first librarian, Kate Gilchrist now Library supervisor at the West End Branch, served at Bullfrog for

17 years. She built strong links with the community and saw circulation and membership increase significantly every year. The skeptics were certainly wrong since over 3 million items have circulated in this branch since it opened.

Members helping in the events were Eileen Hammill, Ann Murray, Elinor and Jack Knight, Madeline Bakker, Patricia Hill, and Sheila and Bill McKinnie. Ann and Bill presented Margaret Atwood's newest book *Moving Targets: Writing with Intent, 1982—2004* to the library on behalf of the Friends.

The Friends would like to



Friends Elinor and Jack Knight celebrate with patron Patricia Hill.

thank all the library staff who made this event such a happy and important occasion, especially Norman McLeod, Kate Gilchrist, Cathryn Rodney and her staff at the Bullfrog Branch, Linda Kearns, Colleen Doyle, Kerry Hannah and many others.

## We were the first! the first city in Ontario to open a public library



Guelph had a circulating library as early as 1832, operating in Sandilands General Store. In 1850, that collections was integrated into a Mechanics' Institute that opened a reading room and offered lectures. Then, in 1882 the Province of Ontario enacted the Public Libraries Act; on January 15, 1883, Guelph City Council adopted a bylaw creating an agreement between the Mechanics' Institute and the Board of Management of the Free Library, and the new Free Library came into being.

By 1901 a new building was needed and the Carnegie Foundation supplied the \$20,000 for the elegant Beaux Arts structure. Its demolition in 1962 broke many hearts in the City. Now Guelph has outgrown its present Main Branch and looks forward to a bigger, better library in the future.

## Through the labyrinth with the Chief - an eye opener

Touring behind the scenes with Chief Librarian Norman McLeod reveals the serious overcrowding and its impact on the staff and service.

Narrow hallways, little or no work space, small basement offices, many with no windows, an office in a cloakroom, and no space to expand, all create challenges for the library staff. With such limited storage and growing demands, it's really quite astonishing that the Main Branch can provide such excellent service to patrons.

Working in such limited space

leads to difficult decisions:

- some materials including government documents have been moved off site into storage

- popular titles are ordered through the McNaughton Plan which allows leasing of multiple copies to meet demand, then return of the books.

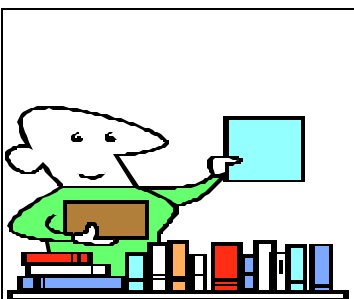
During the summer, the lower level was completely reorganized. The Government Documents were moved into the stacks to make more room for the books.

The back halls filled with overflow shelves, overloaded

book trucks and odds and ends tell the tale of a library in need of more space.



Dr. Janet Wardlaw tours with Chief Librarian Norman McLeod.



## Book Sale

When: Saturday, October 2  
10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Main Branch, 100 Norfolk St.

### Real deals!!

Hardbacks 50cents or 3 for \$1  
Paperbacks 25cents or 5 for \$1  
Cassettes 50cents or 3 for \$1

Great selection of library merchandise available.

### Bargain of the week!!

Buy a book bag and fill your bag with your choice of books for only \$2.00 more.

## Mayor Says AYes@to New Library

Several recent statement and events have heartened our campaign to have City Council act on the recommendations of the *Library Relocation/Redevelopment Study, Final Report, April 2002* which recommends a new central library. At present, a new library is in the capital forecast for 2008. However, we would like to see the planning process resume immediately, so that the City is ready to build the new library in 2008 or sooner. The need is certainly here now.

Mayor Quarrie confirmed in a letter of April 15, 2004 that the Friends will be involved in any planning of a new library. As a result of letters exchanged between City Hall and the Library Board urging City Council to continue the planning process, Councillor Moziar assured citizens of Guelph that a new central library was still in the works. This was in response to Bill McKinnie's comment that City Council appeared to be sweeping the issue of a new library under the carpet (Guelph Mercury, *Library lobbyists won't back off*, June 17, 2004). At the recent Bullfrog branch celebration, the Mayor affirmed the importance of a library to the community and promised the Chief Librarian "you will get your new library, Norman".

Susan Percival and Bill McKinnie also wrote a letter to the editor congratulating Council for its foresight in supporting the branch system in Guelph (Guelph Mercury, September 21, 2004). Two new branches have been approved by City Council, one in the south end for 2005 and one in the east end for 2007. There is still much to be done.



## From the Executive

We hope everyone has had an excellent summer. During the spring and intermingled with summer holidays, the Friends' Executive worked with the library staff and the Board to identify activities where the Friends can help support and promote the library's programs and services.

This summer the Children's Department, Main Branch, again ran its very successful reading program under the direction of Andrea Curtis. From the second week of July to the end of August, "Fire up your Imagination" attracted 378 children. They proved to be voracious readers producing 2,527 short book reports. Support came from TD-Canada Trust who supplied posters and activ-

ity booklets. Friends of the GPL donated \$150 to purchase books as prizes. Annie Wiese of the Friends presented these book prizes. Her picture appeared in the Guelph Tribune on August 31.

Due to ill health, Leo Lamont resigned from the Executive in July. We wish Leo a speedy recovery and extend a heartfelt thank you for his participation on the Executive. Along with the resignation of Marilyn Shapka in the spring, there were two vacancies on the Executive. Fortunately, two members have stepped forward to fill them: Annie Wise and Virginia Gilham. Welcome to the Executive, Annie and Virginia.

It will soon be time to renew

memberships in the Friends of the GPL. In order to create and maintain committees listed in our constitution and continue new initiatives, we need to attract more members. Currently, we have 70 members. We are very pleased with this number, given that we have only been in existence for ten months. A worthy goal for 2005 would be to double our membership. Let's give it a try!

Bill McKinnie

Susan Percival

Co-Chairs

### Friends' Executive

Bill McKinnie, Co-Chair

Susan Percival, Co-Chair

Ann Reed, Secretary

Ann Murray, Treasurer

Nelson Reed, Library Board

Members at Large

Anne Wiese,

Serena Tene

Virginia Gilham

Ex-officio Member

Norman McLeod,

Chief Librarian

### Executive Meetings

are held the first Friday of each month (except July and August) at 1:00 pm in the Board Room of the Guelph Public Library. All Friends are welcome to attend.

### Annual Meeting

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

7:30 pm

Guelph Public Library

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Used Book Sale Saturday, October 2

Volunteers are needed to look after the sales table in 2-hour shifts.

All proceeds go to support your Library.

To volunteer, contact Susan Percival at 824-6637 or [sperciva@uoguelph.ca](mailto:sperciva@uoguelph.ca)

### Delivering books to shut-ins at St. Joseph's Home



Thanks to all who volunteered to help deliver books to shut-ins at St. Joseph's Home. We now have six Friends who have come forward. Residents at the home not only look forward to getting new books, but they also enjoy the visit which comes with the new books. If you are interested, please contact Karen Cafarella at the GPL, [kcafarella@library.guelph.on.ca](mailto:kcafarella@library.guelph.on.ca)

### Children's Department

If you or your friends enjoy working with children and young people, you could help in the Children's Department. Volunteers are needed to display works by local artists, promote reading and literacy by reading and telling stories to children, cartooning, acting as homework helpers, maintaining the fish tank - yes, the kids really love watching the fish!

If you can spare some time, contact Kerry Hannah, Children's Librarian at [khanhah@library.guelph.on.ca](mailto:khanhah@library.guelph.on.ca)





## From the Reference Desk

### Explore the GPL Website

Check out Fugitive Facts to retrieve hard-to-find bits of local and general information:

- Do we have a Suzuki school in Guelph?
- Where do I go to have my painting appraised?
- How do I register the new name for my business?
- Where can I rent a room to hold a meeting?
- Where can I find the plans to build a bat house?
- What is Jennifer Anniston's address?
- How do I tie a Windsor knot or bow tie?

All these questions and many more are answered in the Fugitive Facts File available in the Search Our Library section of the Website. You can also read local city news and check out the latest Friends' information.

### Did you know?

- The total circulation for all branches of the Guelph Public Library from January—September 21, 2004 was 1,002,544 items.
- In the United States, there is a new work of fiction published every 30 minutes.
- There are almost three times as many public libraries in Canada as there are McDonald's restaurants.
- One hundred percent of Canada's 3153 public libraries now offer Internet access.

### **GUELPH PUBLIC LIBRARY**

100 Norfolk Street  
Guelph, Ontario  
N1H 4J6

Phone: 519-824-6220  
Website: [www.library.guelph.on.ca](http://www.library.guelph.on.ca)

#### ***Mr. Dewey and Friends,***

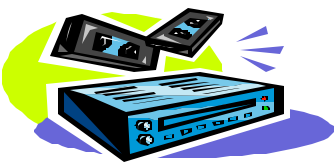
the newsletter of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library, is published three times annually: spring, fall and winter.

Submissions, photos and comments are welcome at

[sratcliffe@library.guelph.on.ca](mailto:sratcliffe@library.guelph.on.ca)

#### Newsletter Editors

Susan Ratcliffe  
Marilyn Crooks



#### **The library has:**

- 7,000 videos on VHS
- 600 DVDs
- 900 books on CD

Do you have a suggestion for purchase? Complete the form on the GPL website.

## How many is enough??

When the Main Branch opened in November 1965, the population of Guelph was 53,000. Today it is over 110,000. An addition in 1975 increased the total space available to 29,000 square feet on three floors. Clearly a new main branch library is needed to improve staff working conditions and to ensure that all the support services which the public doesn't see are able to meet the chang-

ing needs of library patrons and technology.

Sometimes changing technology, rather than space, dictates changes to the collection, especially in Audio Visual resources. Because loans of music on CD outnumbered music on cassettes by ten to one, the cassettes have been deleted from the library collection. Books on tape have always

been popular, but new cars do not come with cassette players making books on CD more in demand. The same fate may befall VHS tapes in the future as DVD players take over from VCRs. The library just does not have room for storing the old technology.

One answer to storage problems, is to allow longer loans on more material.!



Noah Wyle stars as a heroic 'Librarian'.

Bookworms of the world, rejoice! Now you have an action-adventure hero: *The Librarian*. "Instead of having the protagonist be a cool, dashing, heroic type, he's more of a brainiac. He specifically mentions knowing the Dewey Decimal System," says *ER*'s Noah Wyle, who plays him in the December 5 TNT movie.

Instead of supersonic shushing, this librarian's job requires protecting mythological items, including Excalibur and the Ark of the Covenant, in a repository beneath the New York Public Library. Wyle's Flynn Carsen is an unlikely hero, a man who has multiple master's degrees but has never held a job.

Wyle thinks *The Librarian*— produced by *Independence Days* Dean Devlin and also starring Kyle MacLachlan, Olympia Dukakis, Kelly Hu and Bob Newhart — fits the tradition of action heroes, with a little heavier emphasis on comic reluctance. "I referenced Don Knotts a couple of times," he says.