

**Mr. Dewey and Friends**

**Newsletter of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library**

***A New Main Library - Sooner Rather Than Later***

The City of Guelph has the oldest free public library in Ontario. A ladies' reading room established in the back of a store in 1832 developed into an early Farmers' and Mechanics' Institute book collection and reading room. Subsequently, in 1883, the Mechanics' Institute evolved into the first free public library in the province. Around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Guelph took advantage of the largesse of American Industrialist Andrew Carnegie and built a beautiful and distinctive library building

This was an auspicious beginning and a distinguished history. Our visionary founding citizens would surely be disappointed by the Library's more recent history.

The current main library building, dating from the 1960's, has been inadequate almost from the beginning. For the past twenty years, discussion, hand-wringing and grumbling surrounding the need for a new building have provided a consistent undercurrent to municipal discussion.

Over the past ten years the subject has ridden a roller-coaster with the changing political leanings of the decision-makers. Under the current City council, it appeared to be on track, only to be brought down by the vagaries of the world economy.

There is now growing support for finding another way to do this. It is clearly unrealistic to propose to wait until the tax base can support

the kind of main library a university city deserves and needs in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The Library Board, the Friends of the Library, and representatives of the City have all articulated the wisdom of courting alternative funding. This might be the result of a fund-raising campaign, a naming grant, or grant funding from other levels of government, or, as in the case of the River Run Centre, some combination of those.

To take advantage of such opportunities when they arise, the project must be 'shovel ready'. In other words all the necessary planning and fact finding must be in place and current. To that end, the City Council recently approved the use of money, already identified for the purpose, to complete the necessary research and reporting. The Friends of the Library welcome and applaud the vision that continues to support this initiative and to strive to find a way to make it happen.

Virginia Gillham, Chair  
Friends of the Guelph Public Library



*The Friends congratulate **Kerry Hannah**, newly-appointed as Chief Librarian and CEO of the Guelph Public Library. Watch for a feature article in our next issue.*

## Friends of the Guelph Public Library

### Executive

Virginia Gillham, Chair

Secretary

Alan Pickersgill, Treasurer

Mary Mulholland, Advocacy

Graham Smith, Membership

Members at Large

Marjorie Bethune

Liz Macrae

Ex-Officio Members

Kerry Hannah,

Chief Librarian

Alan Pickersgill,

Library Board

### Newsletter Editors

Marilyn Crooks

Susan Ratcliffe

### Webmaster

Ian Robson

*The Executive welcomes your comments and suggestions. Members may be contacted individually; written submissions may be left with Circulation staff at any library branch.*

## IT'S TIME TO RENEW

The Friends of the Library membership year extends from May 1 to April 30. If you acquired or renewed your current membership at last Fall's book sale, or more recently, it is valid through April 30, 2011. All others will expire April 30, 2011. Renewal opportunities are offered at all Friends' gatherings, such as the book sale, and the author evenings. The next opportunity will be at the AGM, April 13, 2010; however, if you are unable to attend, you may also renew by dropping off your payment and completed form (p 5) at any Library branch.

Memberships are a significant portion of the Friends' revenue, so every one is valuable to us. We thank you for your continued support.

## WHITHER THE BOOK SALE ?

When the Friends of the Library staged their first giant book sale in 2007, Library supporters immediately assumed that it would become an annual event. In fact, this has been the case for three years, and each sale has been larger and more profitable than its predecessor. In 2009, we took in more than \$20,000. Most of the money is invested for use in connection with a new main library, and it remains the hope of the group that there will be another sale in 2010.

The major obstacle to the planning of these events is the need, for many months before the sale, for space in which to receive and sort donations. Similar sales in nearby municipalities are more successful and more easily mounted because the organizers have access to permanent, year-round sorting space. In the case of the Friends of the Library, it is necessary to search and beg anew every year.

In 2007, the group was given free use of warehouse space by Linamar who also provided trucks and drivers to move the sorted books from Woodlawn Road to the sale site at Old Quebec Street. The Friends are extremely grateful to Linamar for their generosity; however the space was put to its intended use immediately after the Friends vacated, and is no longer an option.

In 2008, space adjacent to St. George's Square was made available by Matteis Realty. The transfer from the storage space to the sale site was executed by student volunteers from College Heights Secondary School, supervised by their teacher and a member of The Friends. We are also most grateful for the generosity of Matteis Realty and their client, the owner of the space, and to the College Heights students and their teacher.

In 2009, the former Wyndham Arts facility, owned by Chester Carere of Guelph City Realty, was put at our disposal completely free of charge, and we were able both to sort donations and stage the sale in the same location, eliminating the problem of moving boxed books to the sale site. We are extremely grateful to Mr. Carere for his generosity and strong support of our purpose.

Unfortunately, none of the previous venues is an option in 2010. We have explored possibilities with both School Boards in the past, and have had recent discussions with the City's Real Estate department and the Downtown Guelph Business Association. For a variety of reasons, none of these options appears to be feasible in 2010, and ***we find ourselves facing the very real possibility of being unable to mount the annual book sale for lack of storage/sorting space for preparation.***

***For that reason we are asking that all of our supporters give thought to contacts they might have with space to address our needs. We require a minimum of about 2000 square feet of clean, dry, heated, ground level space with washroom facilities, beginning as soon as possible, and definitely no later than May 1. We are unable to pay rent for this space, so we are hoping that there is someone out there with appropriate space sitting vacant who would be willing to make it available for this worthy cause.***

***If you aware of suitable space, we would appreciate your making an initial contact for us.*** If you ascertain that your contact is willing to be part of this initiative, please contact any member of the Executive of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library.



We thank you for your ongoing interest and support.

Virginia Gillham, Chair  
Friends of the Guelph Public Library

*The 2010 Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Library will take place in a new location with a speaker you won't want to miss. For the most up-to-date information on the status of the central library project, mark your calendar now!*

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**FRIENDS OF THE GUELPH PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2010**

**ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
*(CHURCH HALL. ENTER THROUGH THE SECONDARY NORFOLK STREET DOOR)*

**TIME: 7:30 P.M.**

**REFRESHMENTS**

**SHORT BUSINESS MEETING**

**SPEAKER: MAYOR KAREN FARBRIDGE**

**THE STATUS OF PLANNING FOR  
A NEW CENTRAL LIBRARY**






**The Digital Library -  
Going into Overdrive**

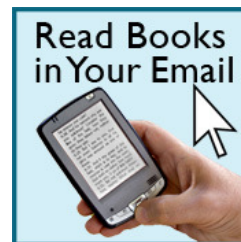
Remember when you went to the library to check out a box with 14 cassette tapes that would tell you a story during your long road trip? Remember when you left the library's copy of a book on CD on your back window in the summer sun, creating a Dali work of art?

You can now move beyond all that and enjoy Audio Books on your own computer or MP3 player, with the help of GPL's new Digital Library Audiobook service called Overdrive. Go to the library website [www.library.guelph.on.ca](http://www.library.guelph.on.ca), click on the "download audiobooks" box at the top of the page. The Digital homepage will show you the options in the collection: New Fiction, Non-Fiction and Children's Literature. All the instructions for downloading the books, and borrowing rules are also on the page. This Virtual Library Branch never closes, so when you need a new bedtime story book – it's open.

Other new services to check out:

While you're on the library website, check out the other new features for avid readers:

-  BookNews for information about new books of many types
-  Buzz by email for this month's library activities
-  Online Book Club with book chapters delivered automatically to your email every week



***No driving, no parking fees to visit this Virtual Branch. Visit soon.***

## Happy Birthday to the Friends of the Guelph Public Library Author Series!

This March marks the first anniversary of the Friends' author series. Over the past year, five exciting local authors have joined Friends and their guests for five engaging evenings of readings, stories and revealing conversations about the lives of writers.

"Authors are given free reign to discuss whatever interests them and it has been fascinating," said Brenda Elliott who, along with Janet Tapon, has organized the series from its inception. "It's an opportunity for an intimate, personal gathering with an author and each one is very different. We try to alternate between fiction and non-fiction."

- 📖 At the inaugural event in March 2009, Mary Swan read from her novel *The Boys in the Trees*, which was nominated for the Scotiabank Giller Prize, and she shared insights into her writing process.
- 📖 Mike Cadman, co-editor of the second *Atlas of Breeding Birds of Ontario*, joined us last May. He spoke candidly about the challenges of coordinating the vast network of birders required to document changes in the breeding ranges of Ontario's birds since the first printing of the atlas twenty years ago.
- 📖 Michelle Wan in November taught us about the orchids that play a role in each of her mystery novels and described her yearly visits to France. She also gave us a glimpse into her plans for her next book.
- 📖 In January, Doug Larson brought along his handmade guitar. An amateur luthier and professor of ecology at the University of Guelph, he used salvaged local materials such as wood, stone, shells and even a fossil to construct his guitar as a means of sharing stories about the region's history.
- 📖 Our most recent speaker Pat Mestern, who has never lived more than a mile from her birthplace in Fergus, regaled audience members with anecdotes about her hometown, her books and the ghost with whom she shares her house.

"We've been very fortunate in our speakers," Janet said after meeting Pat Mestern. "Our goal is to have four speakers per year and this year we'll meet that goal."

Author events which are held at the Westminster Square Branch start at 8:00 p.m. While the plan has always been to conclude the appearance within the hour, audience members tend to linger, engaging the authors in conversation and enjoying refreshments.

"It's just such a wonderful, fulfilling evening," Janet said. "We're grateful to our Friends and happy to be able to offer this series."

So get out your calendar because the final author of the 2009-2010 season is award-winning cartoonist, illustrator and graphic novelist Seth and you won't want to miss one last evening of stories and lively conversation.

Once all of the last minute details have been confirmed, expect an email or call from Janet with your personal invitation. In the meantime, Brenda and Janet are hard at work on next season's author series. If there is a local writer that you'd like to see featured, Brenda and Janet would love to hear from you. Send an email with your suggestion to [friends-guelphlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friends-guelphlibrary@gmail.com).

Christie Zimmer,  
Friend of the Library

Series Speakers:  
Mary Swan  
Mike Cadman  
Michelle Wan  
Doug Larson  
Pat Mestern





**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: June 2010.

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 at the Library?**

When you enter the library website to Search the Catalogue, you will notice the new look of the page. GPL's recent upgrade to the new Polaris Catalogue system now offers patrons a number of new features .

Check out some of the exciting options:

- receive notices of Holds and Overdues by email rather than by phone
- create lists of subjects in which you have an interest and receive notices of new books in that topic
- ask questions by email
- check related subjects, authors and series
- search E-sources like databases and e-books
- limit your search to your nearest branch



The possibilities are endless. Come in to the Library and a *Friend*-ly librarian will show you how to enhance your library use.



**Friends of the Guelph Public Library**

**2010 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

(Expiry 30 April 2010)

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed:  Cash  Cheque (payable to Friends of the Guelph Public Library)

Name: (For family memberships, please indicate all family names and identify dependent children)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone: ( \_\_\_\_ ) - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: ( \_\_\_\_ ) - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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) \_\_\_\_\_