

Mr. Dewey and Friends

Newsletter of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library

...About Not Letting Down Our Guard

Early in the 21st century, the Guelph City Council of the day saw fit to terminate plans for a new central library which should have opened its doors in 2007, and to pass on a golden opportunity to purchase the old post office and its adjoining property to be renovated and expanded for use as Guelph's main library. They chose to ignore both the deplorable inadequacy of the current main building and library use statistics demonstrating that relocating the main library to a more central point would bring nearly a million additional person visits into the downtown core annually. The Friends of the Guelph Public Library, which arose in response to this turn of events, was dismissed as a 'lobby group'.

Beginning in 2006 and until the economy crashed in 2008, a reconstituted City Council began to move forward toward Guelph's long-overdue new main library building. Even though funding is not presently obvious, planning continues toward a new facility, so that the project will be 'shovel-ready' when funding becomes available.

A more recent turn of events, however, needs to be viewed with great concern. A group of City Council members now supports eliminating the bookmobile as a cost-cutting measure. This is alarming for two reasons. First and most obvious, the bookmobile is the library's outreach tool. It services the citizens who benefit most from library service those who cannot get to it any other way. Most of us, and presumably all of the coun-

cillors supporting this measure, have no difficulty transporting ourselves to a library branch. Those who use the bookmobile are primarily children, seniors, shut-ins in retirement homes, and others who cannot avail themselves of library service in any other way. To choose that group as the target of cost-cutting borders on despicable.

At a more philosophical level, however, this latest assault on library service in Guelph must be viewed as even more draconian than the measures of the recent past. Whereas the 2003 Council sought to prevent the creation of improved library facilities, this move would degrade services that have been central to Library service in Guelph for decades.

Once again it is imperative that friends and Friends of the Library inform themselves on this subject and speak out whenever the opportunity presents itself. Raise the issue with the various groups of which you are a part, and even in one-on-one conversation. The lack of awareness among the populace at large on such issues is always disturbing.

Eliminating the bookmobile would be retrogressive in the extreme. Please do your part to spread the word and ensure that citizens and voters understand the seriousness of what is being proposed.

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



Acknowledging the Contributions of GPL's Interim Chief Librarians

"It is such a pleasure to follow in the footsteps of Kerry Hannah and Cathy McInnis. ...I would like to thank Kerry for her amazing notes and attention to detail. They have helped me immensely in these early months.

I am also really fortunate to have Cathy just down the hall to answer my numerous questions and offer wise counsel. It doesn't get any better."

Kitty Pope

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

Kitty Pope,

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.



Introducing Playaway View

First in North America!

GPL will launch the first all-in-one video player, pre-loaded with multiple videos of only the best in kids' education and entertainment programming.

Until you see the preview at the 2011 AGM, you haven't seen anything yet!

Friends of the Guelph Public Library 2011 AGM

Mark the evening of April 20 on your calendar.

The 2011 Friends of the Library Annual General Meeting will take place in the downtown library on Wednesday, April 20 at 7:30 p.m. This year's featured speaker will be our new Chief Librarian, Kitty Pope.

- 📖 Come at 7:00 and take a tour of the main library building. Have you ever been beyond the public areas? This is your chance. ***Come and learn the real meaning of the word crowded!***
- 📖 Come and meet Kitty and hear her thoughts on the future direction of Library service in Guelph.
- 📖 Come and hear about the successes of the past year and the plans for the coming year.
- 📖 Come and be among the first to learn about GPL's new video player.
- 📖 Come and have your questions answered.
- 📖 Come and find out about progress on the new central library initiative.
- 📖 Come and find out what you can do to support the cause of the Guelph Public Library in the city.
- 📖 Come and renew your membership in the Friends.

Planning is in process for increased electronic support for the activities of the Friends. This initiative will likely create additional volunteer opportunities in the coming months. The following Executive slate is based on existing procedures, and could be augmented during the 2011-2012 year.

2011-2012 Executive slate:

Chair, Virginia Gillham,

Vice Chair, Mary Mulholland,

Treasurer, Alan Pickersgill,

Secretary:

Membership Chair, Graham Smith,

Members at Large: Liz Macrae, Marj Bethune

Adjunct members include:

Marilyn Crooks, Public Relations and Newsletter editor

Linda Kearns, Technology Advisor

Ian Robson, Webmaster

Virginia Gillham, Chair

Friends of the Guelph Public Library

Friends' Speaker Series

Thursday, **April 7th** at 8 p.m.
Westminster Square Branch

Speaker: **Jerry Prager**, author of a series of books on organized crime in Ontario (including the Guelph connection) since the 1930's



The Book Sale



They Just Keep Getting Better!!! The 2010 Friends of the Guelph Public Library book sale was the fourth in succession, and in every way the best yet.

In 2007 and 2008, the sale took place in Old Quebec St. with 15,000 and 25,000 donated items which generated revenues in the vicinity of \$10,000 and \$15,000. In 2009 the sale moved to the former Wyndham Arts location on north Wyndham St. More than 30,000 items were donated and revenues topped \$20,000.

Finding adequate space is always a problem. Space is required not only for the sale itself, but also for at least three months in advance to receive and sort donations. As the size of the sale grows it becomes increasingly important that we be able to sort and stage the sale in the same space to avoid having to move 40,000 books from sorting to sale space. Whereas other large, successful sales in the area succeed in part because they have dedicated, year-round space, the Friends of the Guelph Public Library must beg anew every year.

In 2010 we hit the jackpot. Gary and Wynne Christie allowed us to use the vacated FastForms building in Guelph's industrial area. Despite its out-of-the-city-centre location, large crowds beat a path to the door. More than 40,000 items were donated. Brenda Elliott, Carole Stewart and their dedicated crew of volunteers had things supremely organized in the enormous 5000 square feet of space at our disposal, and revenue, before expenses, exceeded \$27,000.

What will we do for an encore? Can we possibly be that lucky and that successful again?

Space has yet to be identified and a firm date has not yet been set, though the end of October is likely. Our enthusiastic volunteers are keen to go again, and we are having to discourage donations from eager supporters until we have a place to put them. We hope this will all fall into place soon. Watch for further information.

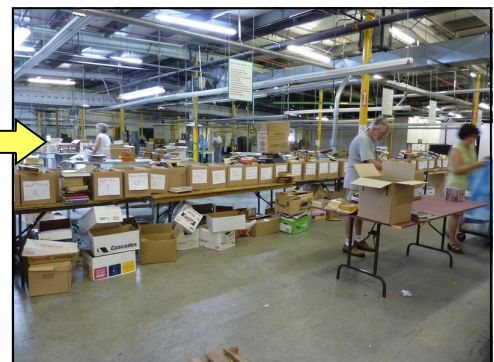
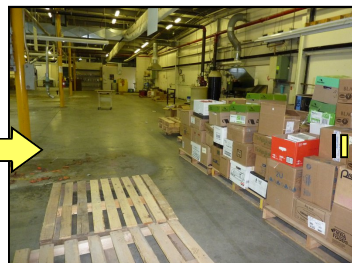
In the meantime:

- 📖 Start to gather your donations (but don't give them to us yet)
- 📖 Let us know if you would like to become a volunteer
- 📖 Make a note in the October area of your calendar to leave time available to come to the sale
- 📖 Let us know if you are aware of space that would work for this sale (we cannot afford to pay rent).

Proceeds from the book sales are used to support the work of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library. A small amount is used for current programming, but almost all of it is invested with the Guelph Community Foundation in anticipation of a new central library building. The funds will be used to support facilities for children and young adults.

Virginia Gillham, Chair
Friends of the Guelph Public Library

(Watch for details of this year's fall sale -- planning has begun.)



2010 Book Sale - Moving In!

A vast, clear space -- an ideal location for preparing donations for sale. What a treat to receive, sort and sell all in one place -- much appreciated by the entire book sale team!

Introducing Kitty Pope

If you have not been into the Main Library for a while, you may get a shock – the shock of change.

Look around and you'll know that a colourful wave has washed over the library, leaving behind warm orange, the greenest green and shocking blue walls, and cosy reading corners with carpets and lamps.

“People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed, revived, reclaimed and redeemed.”

Kitty Pope, new CEO of the Guelph Public Library, quoted these words in her blog, *On a +Note*, words that seem to summarize her work since joining the library in December. The library has never looked cleaner, brighter or more welcoming.

Kitty came to Guelph with a wealth of international library experience:

- ✦ as executive director of an Illinois library system with 250 academic, school, public and special libraries;
- ✦ as adjunct lecturer at San Jose State University School of Library and Information Sciences;
- ✦ as manager of library systems in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates;
- ✦ as librarian in Calgary where she developed several new branches.

She was born in Windsor, graduated from Alma College in St. Thomas and holds a Master of Library Science degree from the University of Western Ontario. She is very happy to return to Canada, and has settled in Guelph with her husband and beloved dog.

She assumed her new position in the midst of the city budget process. She immediately started getting to know the library's place in Guelph through several consultations with all library staff, patrons and several groups in the city. As result, she made several key requests based on facts and patterns in library usage.

When City Councillors questioned the need for the Bookmobile because of its costs, Kitty immediately swung into an advocacy campaign to collect data and community responses for a realistic plan to both save money and maintain the Bookmobile service. She embodies another of her blog quotations: *“The cost of inaction is too great.”*

Kitty is very supportive of the work of the Friends of GPL and is looking forward to working with us to advocate for the new library and to enhance the services of the present building.

If you'd like to get to know her, read her blog, *On A + Note*, posted on the library website every Monday. The devastating effects of the US financial crisis on the Illinois library system and its users led three years ago to her first posting *“How to lead in tough times”*. The response to her musing was so positive that she has continued the blog once a week, writing 115 entries now read by 7800 people from all over the world.

Take the opportunity to meet and talk with Kitty at the Friends' AGM on April 17. Meanwhile let her own words encourage our work: *“It is vital that we in the library community embrace change to kick start the library's survival . . . Now, truly, is the time for bold actions and innovations, not a rehashing of old solutions. We need the personal courage to embrace personal change and develop new ideas.”*





Bookmobile Task Force

As a result of the 2011 City of Guelph budget process, the Guelph Public Library is launching a Task Force of several staff with a mandate to: "Review, evaluate and draft recommendations about the GPL Bookmobile Service. This service review will include: a detailed SWOT Analysis, dialogue with Focus Groups, Town Hall meetings and significant public dialogue, Benchmarking research about other bookmobile services and development an Action Plan.

We are putting our best minds to work on this four month project (March 3 - June 30th) to explore new and innovative solutions and test best practices. The goal is to improve the service and make it more cost effective at the same time. Particular attention will be given to testing the possibility of generating revenue from the service, exploring cost recovery options plus sponsorship and partnership opportunities.

For Bookmobile users who reside in Ward One, there will be a town hall meeting hosted by their two councillors, Councillors Ball and Furfaro, on Wednesday, March 30, 2011. Consult the library website for schedules and details of all town hall meetings.

Budget Update from Kitty Pope re Final City Budget:

"We have funding for the bookmobile until June 30th and the Bookmobile Task Force is looking for ways to more cost effectively serve these folks. We have our best and brightest on the Task Force, so I am confident they will come up with some new and innovative ways to continue serving these folks..."

I know the community will support us as we look for better ways to serve: seniors, day cares and the unserved."

An appeal to all Friends from Virginia Gillham, Chair, Friends of the Guelph Public Library:

Once again it is time to stand up and speak out for Library Service in Guelph.

If you have been monitoring the City Council budget debates, you will know that several councillors feel that cutting **(completely !!!)** the bookmobile service would be a good way to save money.

This is, of course, the service that brings the Library to those who are otherwise unserved, or for whom accessing a library branch is almost impossible: seniors, shut-ins, preschoolers, and any others who are unable to get to a library.

Quite apart from the central issue, it appears that once again we need to remind members of City Council that a majority of Guelph's citizens consider the Library to be an essential service and an absolutely inappropriate target for major budget cutting. This could well be the thin edge of a wedge we have all encountered before. We need to stop it NOW!

In the next four months the Library will be consulting the Guelph community with a series of Focus Groups and Town Hall meetings and conducting a service review of the Bookmobile. The aim would be to ensure that service to this otherwise unserved group is as cost-effective as possible.

If you feel this is an issue worth supporting, please feel free to write to the newspapers and/or to as many councillors as you wish. Thanks for your support. Together we can make a difference!

Complete list of council members with contact information

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Andy Van Hellemond	Andy.VanHellemond@guelph.ca	519-822-1260 ext 2503
Karl Wettstein	karl.wettstein@guelph.ca	519-763-5150

GUELPH PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

Mr. Dewey and Friends,

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Submissions, photos and comments are welcome. They may be delivered to the Friends mailbox at the Main Library or to any Branch Library.

Website:
www.friendsguelphlibrary.ca

Newsletter Editors
Susan Ratcliffe, Marilyn Crooks



What's New at the Library?

**Ebooks? Audiobooks?
iPod? iPad? Android? Kobo?**

It's a new world of reading and listening, and the library can bring you into the portable digital world of downloadable media.

Check library website www.library.guelph.on.ca and click on the box near the top of the page. You will need your library card number and PIN. Clear step-by-step instructions will quickly get your book onto your own device. You can also bring the device into the library for individual help at the special download computer. Check the list of supported devices; the most popular work, except the Amazon Kindle.

This media library works similarly to the regular library. You can check out five titles for a specified time period up to 21 days; you can place holds, create a wish list, and rate the books you read.

The number of resources available is growing quickly from today's totals of 526 fiction books and 147 nonfiction, plus children's titles.

Visit the library online today!

Why become a Friend of the Guelph Public Library?

Meet and join an enthusiastic group dedicated to furthering the purposes of the Library -- Participate in the programs and activities offered by the Friends -- Enjoy the satisfaction which comes from serving your community



Friends of the Guelph Public Library

2011 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Expiry 30 April 2012)

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) _____