

Mr. Dewey and Friends

Newsletter of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library

It 'Is' Going to Happen!

A few years ago, I watched a University President convince a campus community that their objectives included something that had not even been on their radar. His modus operandi was pure poetry. He began by simply lobbing casual comments into meetings and group discussions and then moving on without elaboration. Before long the subject had been firmly implanted into everyone's subconscious, and there were few who remembered when this was not a central issue. Call it the power of positive thinking. Call it a self-fulfilling prophecy. It happened, and this will too. **Guelph 'will' have a new main library....sooner rather than later.**

Have you noticed the toothless grin on Wyndham St. just north of the old post office? Two of the four buildings identified for removal to make way for a new main library have now been removed...just one more sign that it 'is' going to happen.

More than a year ago, City Council agreed to allow the Library to hire a consulting company to develop a functional plan and building program for a new main library. ForeSite Facility Planners worked for nearly a year, with input from a wide variety of citizens, and the resulting plan was accepted by Council in November 2011. It is amazingly graphic and comprehensive. It details the functions to be accommodated and the amount of space recommended for each. It also recommends adjacency of functions and even suggests the orientation and in general terms, possible façade of the building. When you see this program (which you will be able to do at the Friends AGM in April) you can't help but be excited about what is obviously coming.

While the consulting/planning process was under way, there were innumerable opportunities for public input and public awareness. Stake holder groups were consulted, a Town Hall information session was offered, and the report went to City Council in November with attendant press commentary.

Unfortunately an astonishing number of citizens remain oblivious to the entire situation, consider a new main library to be a distant dream, or cling to one or two completely inaccurate facts without availing themselves of any up-to-date information.

YOUR JOB AS A FRIEND OF THE LIBRARY IS TO HELP TO INFORM THEM.

Start by informing yourself. Read this entire edition of Mr. Dewey. Talk to Library staff, Library Board members, or members of the Friends' Executive. Then go out and spread the word. At every social interaction, ensure that people understand the need for this building (see [It's Not a Branch](#) elsewhere in this issue), that planning is well in hand, that the project is now 'shovel ready', that fund raising will begin in earnest in 2011 and that this 'is' going to happen.

Virginia Gillham, Chair
Friends of the Guelph Public Library

Friends of the Guelph Public Library

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

Friends of the Guelph Public Library 2012 AGM

The annual general meeting of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library will take place in the main library on Wednesday, April 18th at 7:30 p.m. This has been a momentous year for both the Library and The Friends of the Library. Come and hear about the many positive happenings, and plans for the future. Chief Librarian, Kitty Pope, will talk about the library consultants' report that has left us with a building program for a new main library. The new building will face Wyndham St., just north of the former Post Office building.

The guest speaker for the evening will be City Councillor Leanne Piper, who, in her Guelph Historical Society role, has been integral to the republication of the book by David Allan, *About Guelph, Its early days and later*. David Allan was a member of the well-known Allan family of Guelph, after whom the Allan Bridge is named. His grandfather (also David Allan) is known to have personally financed and supervised the building of the spire on St. Andrew's church, the second oldest church building in the city. The only known, existing, original copy of this book, which contains priceless hand-drawn illustrations, is in the archives of the GPL. The Library owns the copyright, and they have collaborated with the Guelph Historical Society to republish the book. The story is fascinating and there will be copies of the book for sale at the meeting. Don't miss this year's AGM.

David Allan's book - *About Guelph: Its Early Days and Later*. Copies, containing dozens of Allan's sketches, are available from February 2012.



The Chair's Rant

IT'S NOT A BRANCH!!!

The Public Library system is best characterized as a tree. The main or central library is the trunk. It is the location of most of what makes the system run. The selection, ordering, receiving, processing and cataloguing of all of the information resources in the whole system, happen in the main library. All of the technology, including the electronic catalogue system you use either in the library or from home, is mounted and maintained in the main library. All of the special collections such as the Archives and the Business Reference materials are retained only in the main library. Specialized reference staff who help you with in-depth research

are located in the main library.

The branches are branches! So is the bookmobile. They provide popular reading material, and first step reference materials, and when they don't have what you need, they bring it in ... from the main library. They draw their life blood from the main Library.

The habit, unfortunately reinforced by the media, of referring to the main library as the main 'branch', trivializes the role of the main library, adds to the arsenal of those who would argue against the need for an enormously upgraded facility, and adds to the confusion of those who don't understand the argument.

Please do your part to stamp out this misperception. ***IT'S NOT A BRANCH!!!***

2012 Honorary Friends of the Library - Gary and Wynne Christie

From time to time, over the history of the existence of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library, honorary life members have been named in recognition of their outstanding support and efforts on behalf of the Library and The Friends. It is hard to imagine more worthy recipients of that definition than the 2012 honorees, **Gary and Wynne Christie**.

The Christie family, owners of the FastForms business, have allowed The Friends of the Library to use their company property for the book sale for the past two years. They have been beyond generous, allowing the sale access to space that is many multiples of the size of anything available to the group in the past. Furthermore, they have bent over backwards to make everything work for the group. The list of small and not so small things the Christies have done as the two sales unfolded would fill a book. There is absolutely no question that the quantum leap in the success level of the last two book sales is due in very large part to this wonderful space and our gracious hosts.

Quite apart from their recent generosity in support of the Library, the Christies are well known in the city as supporters of the arts and the community. The Mildred Christie endowment supports scholarships presented annually by the Edward Johnson Music foundation. Gary has been a member of the Board of the Guelph Youth Music Centre for many years. Both Gary and Wynne were active in support of the Guelph Spring Festival for the whole of its existence, and they are Founders Circle supporters of the Guelph Community Foundation.

The 2011 Book Sale -- *the best yet!*



The Friends of the Library have now hosted five annual book sales. Each one has been bigger and better than its predecessor, and each one has generated a larger profit to be put toward facilities for children and teens in the forthcoming new main library.

The 2011 book sale was, by any measure, the best yet. For the past two years The Friends have had access to the former FastForms building... unquestionably the best space in the book sale's short history and the envy of representatives from similar sales who saw it. In 2011 more than 40,000 books and related items were donated. About 2/3 of that total was sold, realizing a gross revenue of \$41,483.29. After expenses, \$38,088.53 was added to the accumulating nest egg which now stands slightly in excess of \$100,000.

How amazing is that!!

Kudos and thanks to the donors, the supporters and the dedicated, hard-working volunteers. The book sale committee is, by now, a well-oiled machine driven by a dedicated core group. The Friends of the Library are indebted beyond measure to Gary and Wynne Christie for making the FastForms building available twice. With community support like this, the 'new main library' issue **will** be conquered...sooner, rather than later.

Membership Renewals will be available at the AGM



ARE WE EVER GETTING A NEW MAIN LIBRARY?

The *Guelph Main Library Building Program and Functional Plan Report (BPFP)* by Consultants Garwood-Jones and Hanham has finally been completed and accepted by the Guelph Public Library Board.

The lengthy study commissioned by GPL and the City of Guelph is the first in a ten step process to get the library “shovel ready” to build a new Main Library in downtown Guelph. The report defines the scope and vision for the new Main library and includes the projected space requirements and functional elements that will be used by the architects to design the 90,000 sq ft facility to serve the community for at least 50 years.

Through a series of four community workshops the BPFP report:

- Defined the role of the new Main library in the Guelph community
- Defined the space requirements and adjacency plans
- Defined Site plans and building massing
- Reviewed guidelines for a LEED Silver Certification facility
- Reviewed Guelph’s architectural heritage
- Reviewed the Baker Street Development Plan Concept C2
- Estimated costs to build the facility within the next 5 years
- Defined a 10 step process to be “shovel ready”

With this first step completed the GPL Board is now; working with the city to find a building partner who will build the facility and planning a series of national and local fundraising projects to furnish and equip the new main library.

Currently, the most often asked questions include:

When will we have a new Main library in downtown Guelph?

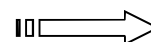
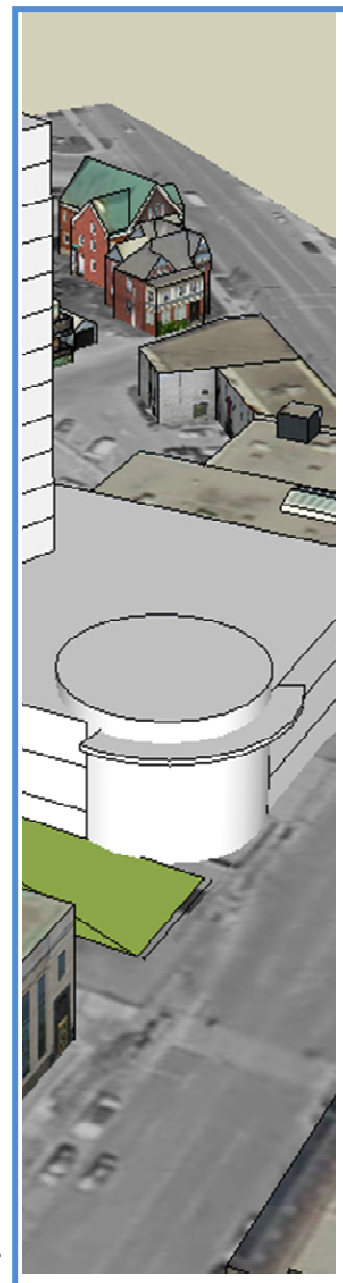
Answer: It all depends on how quickly we can find a building partner. We know it will take at least 1 year to amass the land and permits another year to design the building and two years to actually build it. So, the earliest we expect to open the doors is sometime between the fall of 2017 and the summer of 2019.

Will there be an auditorium and meeting rooms in the new library?

Answer: Yes, there are plans for a 300 seat auditorium with a presentation stage and a 150 seat meeting room that can be subdivided into three 50 seat meeting rooms. There will also be:

Individual and group study spaces, for quiet and not so quite study

Desk chairs, comfy “living room” seats, young adult seating and chairs for children. ...210 seats in total.



What will the new library look like?

Answer: The new Main Library has not been designed yet, however we know it is a building that has to be open and flexible because as the needs of the community change, so can the library. The current library was built before there were personal computers! The new library needs to fit into the landscape of downtown Guelph; it will be environmentally responsible, with lots of room for scooters and strollers. It will be warm and inviting; featuring local art and highlighting the rich local history of Guelph.

How can we contribute?

Answer: The GPL Fundraising Committee is just getting started. Over the next six months they will be developing plans to raise 10 million dollars to equip and furnish the new library. GPL can now issue tax receipts for donations and is looking for the founding donors to kick off the five fundraising campaigns.

The Friends annual book sale is an important part of the fund raising efforts and I am sure it will continue to be a huge success that we can all take great pride in!

So yes Virginia, we are getting a new main library.

The *Guelph Main Library Building Program and Functional Plan* Report is a great first step towards building a new main library. Building a public library is a long and tedious process, but the Guelph Public Library Board and staff are confident that with careful planning, community consultation, wise decision making and the support of the Friends of the GPL, we are on the path to opening a new main library in downtown Guelph.

Kitty Pope, CEO kpope@library.guelph.on.ca

Thoughts from the Guelph Tribune

If you missed the column by Chris Clark in the Tribune of January 24, take a look online <http://www.guelphtribune.ca/opinion/libraries-in-winners-circle/>. He describes the 2011 National Design Exchange Award winners for architecture (commercial) and points out that three of the four winning buildings are libraries!

Bibliothèque Raymond-Levesque <http://www.flickr.com/photos/mariedmartel/sets/72157626800237776/with/5757149620/>

Surrey City Centre Library <http://www.flickr.com/photos/surreycitycentrelibrary/>

Hamilton Public Library/Farmer's Market: <http://www.beaux-mondes.com/blog/2011/01/hamilton-public-library.html>

The column goes on to note that this should already have happened in Guelph, and quotes the visionary words of the mayor of one of the winning cities. Said Surrey Mayor Dianne Watts:

“Our new City Centre Library will be an iconic landmark for downtown and a great public space for the community to gather. It will attract visitors from all parts of the region and help us continue to redefine our city and create a downtown core that is dynamic and unique.”

The Friends of the Library present.....**Friends' Speaker Series**

For several years, The Friends have presented a speaker series as a gift to their members and supporters. Until this year, all of the speakers have been authors; however the 2012 series is offering a variety of presentations.

The season did begin with an author. Alison Pick, a Kitchener-Waterloo native and award-winning author, spoke to a packed house. Ms Pick discussed her journey to discover her own Jewish roots and the writing of her award-winning novel *Far to Go*, a Holocaust story from a very different perspective. The combination of the relocation of these evenings to the main library, and the presentation of this very engaging, high-profile novel by an almost-local author brought out an overflow crowd. Bravo to the organizers of the evening.

The next presentation in this series, on February 8, was a dramatic reading of an hilarious new play best described as a comedy with serious undertones. *Zumba in the Pool with Carlos* starred seven local celebrities including Library CEO Kitty Pope and former City Councillor Cathy Downer. A capacity audience thoroughly enjoyed the evening. Congratulations to all!

On Wednesday, May 9, The Friends of the Library will revive 'Guelph Reads'. Modelled after the CBC's 'Canada Reads', this evening will feature three local celebrities presenting a book of their choice and then defending it against the presentations of the other two panelists, in a moderated debate intended to raise the level of literary awareness in Guelph in an entertaining fashion. The audience will choose the final winner. Mark your calendar! Join the fun!

STRATFORD **Lecture Series**

Guelph, ON – This March, you'll discover a whole world of excitement waiting for you at the Guelph Public Library. The GPL and the Stratford Shakespeare Festival proudly present three thought-provoking lectures based on this season's plays. Each evening lecture features local Shakespearean experts from the University of Guelph's School of English and Theatre Studies who will take you beyond Stratford's theatrical stage! Join us at the Main Branch (100 Norfolk Street) at 7:00 PM on March 8th, 15th, and 22nd. Admission is free.

For more information about these events or other library programs, phone 519-824-6220 or visit your neighbourhood library branch.

Henry V

Thursday, March 8th, 7:00 PM

Guest Speaker: Dr. Ann Wilson

Associate Dean, College of Arts, University of Guelph

Much Ado About Nothing

Thursday, March 15th, 7:00 PM

Guest Speaker: Dr. Paul Mulholland

School of English & Theatre Studies, University of Guelph

Cymbeline

Thursday, March 22nd, 7:00 PM

Guest Speaker: Dr. Mark Fortier

School of English & Theatre Studies, University of Guelph



**Mayor's
Award of
Excellence
June 23,
2011**



The Friends of the Guelph Public Library
extend congratulations and thanks to
Eileen Hammill --
a true Friend of the Library!



Guelph Award of Excellence Presented to Eileen Hammill

At the Guelph Awards of Excellence, Mayor Farbridge recognized "The Amazing Eileen Hammill" for her nearly 30 years of volunteer service to the Guelph Public Library Board.

In her years as a member of the Guelph Public Library Board, until her retirement in March 2011, Eileen Hammill has made a significant difference for one of our community's most valued services. Well-known as a board member who always had her homework done, Eileen took a businesslike approach and brought a keen eye for budgets, statistics, and market trends. During Eileen's time on the board, the library grew from a circulation of less than 400,000 to 1.8 million, and from one location to six. Eileen helped usher in changes that helped Guelph Public Library become more successful and well-used than libraries in many other municipalities.

In the 1980's, Eileen was instrumental in the establishment of the Southern Ontario Library Service and served on a provincial government task force on public library funding. The Ontario Public Library Association recognized Eileen as Trustee of the Year in 1990.

In addition to her service on the library board, Eileen also served as President of the Guelph Historical Society in the 1960's, promoting the establishment of the Guelph Museum and the preservation of Guelph's heritage buildings.

As far back as 1994, Eileen was a fierce advocate for the need for a new main library, and her support has not waned. Eileen is a tireless champion for the vital role that a free, accessible public library plays in people's lives.

In her acceptance speech, Eileen took the opportunity to press for a new Guelph Public Library. Mayor Farbridge had earlier joked that Eileen refused to let her forget that the city needs a new library. "I feel so strongly about the public library system," Eileen said. "You know, it is the only facility that we can all access at no charge. I think that is something that is very important." Then, with the mayor standing just behind her, Eileen delivered a further plea for a new library facility. "I'm 81-years-old, I would like to see a new library before I go to the Woodlawn," she said. The over 300 gala attendees roared with laughter and clapped in recognition and agreement.

The Guelph Public Library board and staff join in congratulating and thanking the effervescent Eileen Hammill.

Guelph is a better place because of her untiring efforts!

CFUW Guelph, (www.cfuwguelph.on.ca)
(Information compiled from the following websites:
City of Guelph, Guelph Tribune, and Guelph Mercury)

Speed Dating in the Public Library?
Book Club meetings in the Albion Hotel?
Discussion circles for new Canadians?
Advertising for library events in local pubs, downtown shops and at the University?
Are these the activities of a traditional public library?

Who is responsible for such radical change in the usual library offerings?



Meet **Meg Forestell-Page**, the recently-appointed E-librarian at the Guelph Public Library. She, a twenty-something, recognized that friends of her age did not use the library at all. She observed that twenty to thirty year olds felt that the library's programs were aimed either at children or at seniors and that they did not feel comfortable coming to the library. With the encouragement of Chief Librarian Kitty Pope, Meg set out to attract this age group in to the library.

The twenty-something book clubs regularly attract ten or fifteen readers for discussions of books that interest them. Grad students or young professionals alone in the city find new friends with similar interests. Most became members of the library who are now comfortable using it and borrowing its resources.

The idea for Speed Dating based on love of reading came from the Sacramento and San Francisco Public Libraries which had made similar observations about the reticence of that age group to use the library. On February 6, thirty-six people attended the first GPL Speed Dating evening, thirteen men and 23 women, who quickly began talking under the pseudonyms of famous authors. Some found new friends, some found likely matches, some joined the library, but all had a great time and gained a new perspective on the library as a community centre where people meet to share a common love of books.

A similar circle of comfort has evolved among New Canadians whom Meg and other librarians have welcomed to the ESL Conversation Circles. They can practice their English skills in a safe place while becoming comfortable with and aware of library programs and resources.

Meg was appointed as the E-librarian (electronic resources) in November of 2011, with responsibility for creating an entirely new library website, for selecting and administering the library's growing number of databases, for promoting e-books and training staff in their use, and for developing online references and eventually a new e-branch of the library.



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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 2012**

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 in the Library?

Download free (and legal) music from a variety of artists and genres from the Sony catalogue, which includes many of today's most popular musicians. You can download 3 songs per week, which are yours to keep! Please note that this service is only available outside of the library.

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

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Enclosed is my/our annual membership fee January 2012- April 2013 ☐ new ☐ renewal

___ \$10 Individual •

___ \$5 Senior(65+) / Student

___ \$15 Family (primary contact and related family members)

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

Name(s): _____

Street: _____

Apt: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone - Daytime: _____ - _____ - _____ Phone - Evening: _____ - _____ - _____

Email: _____

Your involvement is very welcome, but it is not a requirement of membership.

Please check areas of interest: Book sale ___ Program ___ Fundraising ___ Publicity ___ Newsletter ___ Advocacy

• ___ Author Visits ___ Writing/Reading Workshops ___ Educational Exhibits ___ Special Events • ___ Membership & Hospitality ___ Other (please specify): _____