

## **Mr. Dewey and Friends**

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

#### **...Being an Active Friend**

The stated goals of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library are to support and advocate for the Library, and to “provide a way for individuals and groups to contribute to the Library”. Fundraising in anticipation of a new main library building is a natural corollary to those goals.

Over the past several years, the Book Sale has been the major fundraising activity of the Friends. More recently, as the impetus for a new Main Library gathers steam and the Library itself enters into a major capital campaign, the Friends Executive is examining additional possible fundraising projects. Several initiatives are under consideration, but they will need new and different champions and volunteers beyond those who already busy themselves with the Book Sale, Guelph Reads, and other current activities.

Whether you are a leader/organizer or a willing follower/worker, we all have the same goal....a new Main Library. Please give some thought to your available time and be ready to say ‘yes’ if you are approached to help.

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

#### **- 2013 Annual General Meeting - Friends of the Guelph Public Library**

The 2013 Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library will take place  
in the second floor auditorium of the Main Library, on

**Wednesday, April 17 at 7:30 p.m.**

Light refreshments will be served prior to the meeting, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The agenda will include a very brief business meeting, a summary of the highlights of the Friends’ activities over the past year, and a report of the exciting ongoing progress and development in the Library.

**Guest Speaker - Tammy Adkin -  
Manager, Guelph Civic Museums**



The Museums and the Library are two of Guelph’s major cultural institutions. Each is embarked upon an exciting period of growth and development. This evening will bring a clearer understanding of the activities and progress of both.

## Friends of the Guelph Public Library

### Executive

Virginia Gillham, Chair

Mary Mulholland, Vice-Chair

\_\_\_\_\_, Secretary

Alan Pickersgill, Treasurer

Library Board Representative

Anne MacKay, Library Board  
Representative

\_\_\_\_\_, Membership

Members at Large

Marjorie Bethune

Liz Macrae

Graham Smith

Mei Fei Elrick

### Ex-Officio Members

Kitty Pope, Library CEO

Lisa Cunningham,

Library Liaison

May Goodwin,

Secretary

### Newsletter Editors

Marilyn Crooks

Susan Ratcliffe

**Webmaster** Linda Kearns

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

## Be our Friend!

### Like us on Facebook

Alan Pickersgill has developed a Facebook page for the Friends.

See it at

[https://www.facebook.com/?ref=tn\\_tnmn#!/pages/Friends-of-the-Guelph-Public-Library/118464418338160](https://www.facebook.com/?ref=tn_tnmn#!/pages/Friends-of-the-Guelph-Public-Library/118464418338160).

Get as many people as possible to "like" the page; then they will get news as it is posted. Encourage your contacts to go to the page and click the "like" button.

## 'Guelph Reads' back by popular demand!

The 2012 revival of Guelph Reads, presented by The Friends of the Guelph Public Library, was an overwhelming success and last year's audience demanded a sequel. Panel members Karen Farbridge, James Gordon and Lloyd Longfield were articulate, spirited and entertaining. Can the 2013 panel possibly match their high standard?

Mark Wednesday evening, May 15 on your calendar, and come to the Main Library at 7:00 p.m. to find out.

'Guelph Reads' is modeled after the CBC's popular 'Canada Reads' ***with the significant exception that in Guelph the audience chooses the winner.*** All of the titles to be defended are Canadian, and all have been published in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Come, be entertained, informed and persuaded by this year's distinguished panel, and help to choose the book that will be first choice among Guelph readers.

Mediator and Conflict Management Specialist and former City Council member, **Cathy Downer** will defend **Sanctuary Line** by Jane Urquhart

**Barb Minett**, Co-owner of The Bookshelf, has chosen **Our story : Aboriginal voices on Canada's Past**, a collection of writings by prominent Canadian aboriginal authors including Guelph's Tom King.

**Craig Norris**, Host of CBC Radio's "Laugh Out Loud" and new host of the CBC Kitchener morning show will promote **Harperland** by Lawrence Martin

**Trish Stevenson**, host of Rogers TV's "Inside Guelph" will present **How to be a Canadian** by Will Ferguson

All of these titles are available through the Guelph Public Library, the Bookshelf, and other bookstores.

Please plan to join us on May 15th for the

### **2013 Battle if the Books.**

The Friends of the Guelph Public Library mourn the passing of John Goddard on September 6, 2012. John and his wife Joan have been strong members and supporters of the Friends of the Library for several years. John was the architect of the first computer-based volunteer database which was one of the foundations for the present comprehensive list.

## Why fundraising?



Interesting statistics were mentioned to the audience at the recent Book Lovers' evening; a successful fund raising event.

Over the last five years, usage of the library and its resources has been steadily rising:

- Circulation has increased by over 6% per year (usage increased by 7.2% in the last 10 months)
- Foot traffic has increased by an average of 3.1% (on a daily basis, roughly 2,500 people enter our library locations)
- Reference statistics have increased annually by 5%, translating to over 96,000 questions answered per year
- Computer usage has increased by 14% (over 300 people use the public computers on a daily basis)
- GPL circulates 6,270 items per day to its over 53,000 active card holders, translating to over 2.1 million resources borrowed annually
- In 2011, 26,653 database sessions were accessed with 50,734 retrievals, and so far in 2012, these numbers have increased to 34,153 and 93,318 respectively (an increase of 90% in database usage)
- Over 27,000 e-books have been downloaded in the last 10 months
- Program offerings have increased by 35% since last year (962 programs were offered to over 24,000 participants in 2011)

As the community's need for public library services continues to grow, GPL constantly evolves to meet those needs. However, the current Main Library of the Guelph Public Library system (built in 1965, with an addition in 1975), has long outgrown its present building, making it increasingly challenging to provide in an efficient manner the valuable services desired by the Guelph community. Government funding does not cover all of the costs of the library materials, technologies, and programming necessary to continue to meet the needs of this changing population.

*Hence the need to generate additional funds for these items  
and a much needed new space through  
**fundraising initiatives.***



Jen Griesbach, a GPL library assistant, cleans bits of styro-foam out of the hair of the Paper Bag Princess statue just after it was unwrapped.

The 1.2 metre statue of the **Paper Bag Princess** now stands in front of the children's book section on the second floor of the Main Branch of the Guelph Public Library. The statue is a creation of local artist Ben McCarl, inspired by famous children's book author, Robert Munsch.

While McCarl is credited as the artist, sixty people actually had a hand in its creation. It became a community project when, throughout the fall, budding artists were invited to participate in applying the winterstone clay and giving the project shape.

The finished piece was donated to the Guelph Public Library and now is available for all to see.

### **The History and Evolution of a Book Sale**

In the Fall of 2006, Friends of the Library executive member Marj Bethune suggested, once too often, that the group should hold a book sale, and found herself in charge. To say that this little project turned out to be more than a one woman job would be a major understatement. Marj did have lots of volunteer help, but there is no question that she blazed the trail. She did an enormous amount of research. She drafted a plan. She encountered and resolved all of the impediments the first time, and pulled off an amazing organizational feat in 2007. The blueprint from that first sale has been the basis of the evolution of the sale ever since. *The Friends are deeply indebted to Marj for conjuring the idea, organizing the first sale and developing the original plan.*

The book sale has inhabited three different spaces, but coming to rest in the FastForms building in 2010 represented one of the several giant steps that have brought us to our current level of success. *The Friends are deeply indebted to Gary Christie and the extended Christie family for their ongoing generosity in allowing continued use of this space.*

Along the way, a crack team of lead sale organizers has evolved. Their energy, enthusiasm and innovative thinking have attracted a large group of volunteers (nearly 100 in 2012). They have been responsible for many increased efficiencies, particularly in the approach to sorting the donated items, and many improvements in format and process. *The Friends are deeply indebted to the leaders of the booksale organizing team, in particular Linda Kearns and Brenda Elliott, for their many, many hours of effort, and their determination to make every year the best yet.*

Over the years the sale has gone from one day to three, and the number of donated items has grown from about 20,000 to about 50,000. Once again, in 2012, it broke all previous records with a gross revenue of nearly \$65,000 and a net profit of nearly \$60,000.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Gross income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Net income</u>
2007	\$10,253.50	\$ 1,966.75	\$ 8,286.75
2008	\$16,235.58	\$ 4,447.15*	\$11,788.43
2009	\$21,439.98	\$ 3,174.69	\$18,266.29
2010	\$27,660.71	\$ 3,662.94	\$23,997.77
2011	\$42,201.55	\$ 3,697.56	\$38,503.99
2012	\$64,108.30	\$ 5,624.85	\$58,483.45

The book sale has never paid rent for the spaces occupied. The relatively higher expenses in 2008 result from the need to pay the cost of utilities in the sorting space that year. That expenditure was not required in 2007 and it has never been required since.

It is interesting to note that expenses in 2012 were less than triple expenses in 2007, but gross revenue in 2012 was 6.25 times gross revenue in 2007, and net income in 2012 was more than 7 times net income in 2007.

It is also interesting to note that the seven-fold increase in profit has been accomplished with fewer than triple the number of donated items. This is, in part, because the larger space at FastForms allows all of the donated items to be displayed; however it can also be attributed to the sale's growing reputation for excellent quality, superbly organized. Regular shoppers now come from out of province and the U.S.

### **When Sale Days are Over ... What Happens Next?**

Of the materials left unsold at the end of the sale, anything that is usable finds a home with an area charity or not-for-profit organization. Donations considered unfit for sale are removed, free of charge, for recycling of the paper. Depending upon the amount of material so disposed, there may be payment to the book sale, but at the very least the materials are removed without cost.

Some of the profits benefit the Library immediately. In the past, matching funds have been made available for Library grant applications and support has been provided for special initiatives such as children's reading groups. In recent months, the Friends were sponsors of both the Library's golf tournament and the Book Lovers' Evening. Most recently, the group purchased a beautiful pen and ink drawing of the former Carnegie Library building by a local artist which will hang, eventually, in the new main library.

Most of the revenue from the book sales is presently invested in a separate, interest-bearing account, with the Guelph Community Foundation. The current balance exceeds \$150,000 and the money will be made available to the Library to furnish and equip the Young Adult section of the new main library.




No one involved in the first sale in 2007 guessed that it would evolve to its present status. Guelph is a highly literate community with a strong interest in supporting an excellent Library.

**Why is anyone surprised?**



***WATCH FOR DETAILS OF THE 2013 FALL BOOK SALE  
AND VOLUNTEER SIGN UP OPPORTUNITIES.***

### **Friends Celebrate Local Authors:**

-  renowned mystery authors Michelle Wan, Alison Bruce, and Gloria Ferris
-  children's author Werner Zimmerman ; and
-  artist Sonal Raje attended the Book Lovers' fundraising evening..

Their support is much appreciated.



## Reading Rendezvous

In February, the Guelph Public Library held its second “**Reading Rendezvous**” event at our Main Library location. The focus of the event was to help book worms find fellow literature enthusiasts in a safe and welcoming environment. The event was open to individuals aged 20-35yrs and a second event for those 35yrs and over will be held in April. Participants were asked to bring their favourite books to spark discussions and “dates” lasted 3 minutes each. Our programming room was transformed into a romantic haven, complete with rose petals on the floor, fake candles flickering on bistro tables, and mood music playing in the background. The turnout was tremendous with over 25 participants in total.

Since the event GPL staff have spied numerous “matches” across town. Comments from participants included: “It was a lot of fun, I was skeptical at first!”, “Thanks for organizing this great event, we all had a good time!”, “What a brilliant idea”, “I never knew I could have so much fun at a library”, “Can I be put on a mailing list if the GPL holds more events like this?” and “Even if nothing comes from the evening I wanted you to know how much fun I had”.

The GPL hopes to continue this event next February.

*Cathy McInnis*

*(Cathy has just announced her retirement; details at AGM).*



## Library Staff Member Tara Harvie

The library’s newest full-time staff member, Tara Harvie, is in charge of the wonderful book clubs service at GPL, juggling the complex scheduling for over 115 clubs, eleven of which are run by the library. These include groups for mothers and daughters, men only, mixed, English as a Second Language, cookbook enthusiasts and 20-somethings. To assist with future purchases, Tara recently conducted a survey of the participants to learn what they like to read. Currently she manages over 150 sets of books and the ordering of approximately 20 new ones a year. She has positive proof that Guelph is a reading city!

Membership in book clubs ranges in age from ‘tweens to elderly readers, so the offerings must be diverse. Lately there have also been requests for large print and audio books. One current initiative is “book club in a bag”: sets of copies of older choices that are underused but still good and available without advance reservations. A scheduling reorganization is also planned, with hopes of a future online platform so clubs can pre-book titles for themselves.

Tara grew up in Cambridge and earned her Master of Library and Information Science degree five years ago at the University of Western Ontario. Her library experience began right away in a contract position at Conestoga College as program liaison: buying resources, providing information, helping students and teaching. She followed this with work as an information specialist at Hamilton Health Sciences before joining the Guelph Public Library staff in 2012.

When not busy with book club responsibilities, Tara looks after the library blogs, plans adult health programs, orders paperbacks and magazines as well as some non-fiction, and serves at the information desk. Tara’s favourite reads? She has enjoyed *Carry the One* by Carol Anshaw. *Her Fearful Symmetry* by Audrey Niffenegger, *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett and *The Wild* by Cheryl Strayed. Welcome Tara, she is delighted to be a new member of the dynamic GPL staff.

*Mary Mulholland*

## Library Links Golf Classic

The Guelph Public Library's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Library Links Golf Classic and dinner was held on September 14<sup>th</sup> 2012 at Victoria Park East Golf Club. Golfers battled Mother Nature, braving the wet and windy conditions, to tee off the library's \$10 million fundraising campaign. The event raised \$11,164 towards furnishings, fixtures, and equipment for the new Main Library – surpassing the fundraising goal of \$10,000. To this success, we owe our deepest gratitude to the many sponsors, donors, golfers, dinner guests, and volunteers who made this inaugural tournament a memorable and successful one!

We hope you can all join us next year for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Library Links Golf Classic – which will be held on Friday September 13<sup>th</sup> 2013 at Victoria Park East!



## An Evening for Book Lovers

The Guelph Public Library's inaugural "Evening for Book Lovers" fundraising event held on Friday February 15<sup>th</sup> at the Italian Canadian Club was a huge success raising over \$13,000! Over 160 library supporters attended the sold-out evening of mystery dinner theatre, mingling, and silent auction festivities, helping to open a new chapter in the quest for a new Main Library in Guelph. The evening was proudly sponsored by Meridian Credit Union and hosted by Magic 106.1 FM radio personalities Kevin

Kelly and Lisa Richards. Mayor Karen Farbridge, Intrigue Media, Swan Moving and Storage, Saunders Books, artist Sonal Raje as well as children's author Werner Zimmerman were among the devoted library supporters in attendance.

The mystery theatre, presented by the Mysterious Players, kept the audience guessing in their seats as to which character was guilty of the crime with various clues given along the way. The Crime Writers of Canada - local renowned mystery authors Michelle Wan, Alison Bruce, and Gloria Ferris - were also available for book signings. The library fundraiser presented an array of wonderful auction items - a result of overwhelming support from the community. Guests had the opportunity to bid on top items such as original art pieces, spa packages, and theatre tickets. Overall, it was a night filled with mystery, intrigue and lots of literary fun!



All proceeds of the event directly support the \$10 million campaign for a new Main Library. The Guelph Public Library would like to extend its deepest gratitude to its event partners, sponsors, donors, volunteers, and all of the guests whose continued support made this event a memorable and successful one. Your generous donations and support ensure the GPL will continue to be a vital resource in our community!

Kirsten Bester,  
Development Officer





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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. Next issue: July 2013.

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](http://www.friendsguelphlibrary.ca)

Newsletter Editors

Susan Ratcliffe, Marilyn Crooks

**What's New at the Library?**
**Guelph Public Library's  
e-Mail Newsletter Service.**

Are you looking for a few good books to read? Sign up for GPL e-newsletters and get great book suggestions by email. Reading lists will be delivered right to your inbox along with new gems, best-sellers, and related titles. You'll also be able to check immediately whether the items are available at your local Library or whether they've been checked out. To get started, choose your favorite topics from a list of subjects, enter your account information, and the Library will deliver recommended readings to your inbox. To preview a newsletter before signing up, click on the name of the newsletter.

**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****2013 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION****(Expiry 30 April 2014)**

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)

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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) \_\_\_\_\_