

Mr. Dewey and Friends

Newsletter of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library



*Thank you to the Christie family for providing the
FastForms building to the Friends at no cost for
the four most recent annual book sales
Best wishes from your Friends!*

If You Care About Guelph and a New Main Library -- there is HOPE

At a special meeting of City Council in late February, attended by a strong contingent of members of the Friends of the Library, the City unveiled a visionary plan for comprehensive redevelopment of the Baker St. parking lot area, of which the new main library building would be a key component and anchor. The City Treasurer and the Chief Administrative Officer describe this as a "transformational" project that will help quadruple the tax assessment base in the downtown.

The Guelph Mercury notes that "City staff and a private consultant envision up to a 600,000-square-foot multi-use development, with a three-level underground parking garage, ground-level space for the University of Guelph and Conestoga College, a downtown YMCA facility and a new downtown library. "

A condominium tower containing 100 or more residential units will be part of the 'above ground' space.

Funding for this and other related municipal development would come from a proposed Guelph Economic Investment Fund to be built from a decade or more of a city tax levy, user fees for parking, issuing debt, selling naming rights to buildings, and selling excess land, such as the site of the current downtown library, together with private sector money and grants from higher levels of government.

Council voted unanimously to enter into agreements with the public sector partners seeking to locate at Baker Street, and to continue developing plans for the Guelph Economic Investment Fund. Staff will bring back details about the structure of the fund, as well as the preferred design of the Baker Street redevelopment, to a meeting in May. A preferred design for the Library portion already exists: <http://www.library.guelph.on.ca/about/main/index.cfm>



Expressing appreciation for the strong turnout of Friends of the Library at Council, Library CEO Kitty Pope noted "this is a very complex but very exciting mega project that will result in a new and exciting downtown neighborhood

with the new main library at its core! On Wednesday May 28th we will be back at council with the financial plan to move the project ahead. By then we should know if we are building a new main library by 2020. As several staff commented after the meeting..."we are farther than ever before"....we just need to remain focused and positive. We are grateful for the continuing support of the Friends; ***GPL is so lucky to have such great Friends.***"

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

Friends of the Guelph Public Library

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Friends

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Susan Ratcliffe

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

THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY IS NOW A REGISTERED CHARITY

After an interval of several years, the Friends of the Library is once again able to issue income tax receipts. More than a year of unrelenting effort culminated, in mid 2013, with the group's being designated a Registered Charity by Revenue Canada. The Friends of the Library is a support group for the Library, operating separately and at arm's length. The Friends is also a separate registered charity.

This change means that tax receipts can once again be issued for donations, and also for sponsorships in situations such as the *Book Sale* and *Guelph Reads*. This is one more brick in the road to the goal of a major donation for the new main Library building.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND PLAN TO JOIN US ON

WEDNESDAY APRIL 16 at 7:30 P.M.

in the main library

FOR

FRIENDS OF THE GUELPH PUBLIC LIBRARY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

There is lots to talk about this year, including:

The Book Sale past and future and *its search for a new home*

Other activities of The Friends and the Library

An exciting proposal to help the Library, which requires a vote of support from the membership.



GUEST SPEAKER

will be Guelph artist **Werner Zimmermann**, whose presentations are always entertaining.

Mr. Zimmermann has illustrated nearly 20 children's books. He is the author of several of them and also has collaborated with a long list of other children's authors, including Jean Little. Mr. Zimmermann has been printmaking advisor to the Inuit artist of Arctic Quebec, he has taught life drawing and animation at both Seneca and Humber colleges and is an entertaining, widely sought speaker and presenter of workshops including presentations designed to encourage young artists.

Condolences



The Friends extend sympathy to Janina and Peter Wright and family, friends and former colleagues on the passing of **Jon Wright** on February 18, 2014. Both Jon and Janina were active members of the Friends. A retired long-time teacher-/librarian at John F. Ross Collegiate, Jon was a passionate and constant supporter of public education and libraries. Jon was a gentle man who will be missed by all who knew him.



There is a municipal election coming in October

The Friends of the Guelph Public Library came together spontaneously in 2003, in direct response to the election of a City Council whose proposed cost-cutting threatened (and ultimately derailed) plans for a new downtown library. What began as a group of seven people quickly numbered about 200, and it is clear as one moves about the city that many others support the group in spirit.

The role of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library in the forthcoming municipal election is *not* to endorse or campaign against any individual candidate. The group's mission is to ensure that the issue of the need for a new central library in the downtown core retains a high public profile, and that sufficient, accurate, detailed information on the subject is available to ensure that voters are fully and properly informed. The group is engaged in urging voters to enquire at a detail level about the views of potential candidates on the subject of a new central library, so that they can choose wisely when they are deciding for whom to vote.

The current City Council has just unveiled a visionary plan for the downtown core that would be anchored by the long-sought new main library, but there are still naysayers out there. There are candidates whose platforms seem to imply that they are not in possession of full, accurate details surrounding this subject, and there are citizens who are either unaware of the facts or have been misled by misinformation.

Consider the following, and then talk it up as you move through your life in Guelph in the coming months.

The need to replace the main library is *not* predicated on a need to store books, as some seem to think. A main Library in a thriving academic city is the operation centre of a system, the business and administrative hub, and the site of public spaces offering varied outreach programs. It is the location of specialized services such as technology development and support; the archival collection; specialized reference materials too expensive to be duplicated in every branch; professional specialists who select the materials acquired for the entire Library system and who offer specialized reference service including to businesses the City continues to attempt to attract. The branch libraries are popular reading depots and the site of some outreach programs. All of the administration and most of the specialized services for the entire system happen in the main library.

The downtown library was built in 1965, when Guelph's population was 43,000. Today the population is more than 123,000. Guelph's population has grown at about 2% a year. The library membership has grown at 4% a year. Numerically, there is presently significantly more than one library card holder for every household in Guelph. The total public library square footage including branches and the bookmobile has grown from 29,000 in 1965 to 59,000 in 2014. In other words, in 1965 Guelph's library space was .67 sq ft per capita. In 2014 it is .48 sq ft per capita...a decrease of nearly 1/3. The 2010 edition of Ontario Public Library Guidelines recommends .6 sq ft/capita in urban libraries putting Guelph 20% below the recommended minimum

- The public library is arguably the only *completely* free public service. Even children's sports activities require user fees. Anyone may use the information resources in the building. Any city resident may join without charge, borrow and remove materials and access all the resources in all formats including electronic.

About 4.75 % of municipal tax revenue supports Library services. In 2012, \$1.1 million (less than \$10 per capita and less than the price of one purchased book per capita) was spent to maintain and update the information collection of more than 415,975 titles, and electronic information resources.

- **The Library provides :** books, magazines, government information, videos, DVDs, sound recordings, talking books, virtual books, electronic research information, local history including an archives of original documents, genealogical research resources.

Interlibrary Loan. The Library will search for information if it does not exist within the system, and bring it in from another library.

The Library subscribes to many electronic databases available to users 24/7. Members may access, from home, encyclopedias, dictionaries, atlases, magazines and newspapers, career information, historical information, reference books, sound recordings and novels.



THE BOOKSALE NEEDS A NEW HOME

The Friends of the Library are supremely grateful to the Christie family for making space available, free of charge, for their recurring October book sale, for the past four years. All of the revenue from this sale is used to support the Guelph Public Library. A significant portion of it will be used for the forthcoming new main Library building.

Having access to this wonderful location has allowed the sale to grow exponentially. In 2009, the year before the sale moved to the *FastfForms* building, there were 35,000 books and related materials on offer. In 2013 that number was 75,000. Having the space to display this wonderful collection has allowed the percentage of materials sold to reach about 2/3 (the rest go to charities).

The *FastForms* building has now been sold and will no longer be available to the group. ***If this major community event is to continue, the sale needs another home.***

In the immediate future, The Friends of the Library require about 400 sq. ft of ground level storage space beginning in late April.

For the sale itself they require about 10,000 sq ft. for, at minimum, the months of September and October (sooner would be even better).

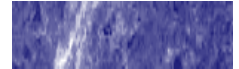
If there is someone out there with suitable space sitting empty, who might consider making it available for this iconic community event, please contact The Friends of the Guelph Public Library at **fgplbooksale@gmail.**

Virginia Gillham, Chair

Friends of the Guelph Public Library



**8th Annual GIANT Used
Book Sale
October 17-19, 2014**



THE BOOK SALE OVER TIME

The annual book sale is the major fund raising activity of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library. Income from the book sale, together with other income earned by Friends' activities throughout the year, is used to support various individual library activities such as assisting with other library fundraising activities, supplying matching dollars for grant applications, supporting occasional special purchases and the like. Most of the funds raised by The Friends, however, including most of the income from the annual book sales, are invested and are accruing toward a major gift to the Library in support of the planned new main library building.

<http://www.library.guelph.on.ca/about/main/index.cfm>

The book sale has been an annual autumn event since 2007. The first sale happened in the Old Quebec Street Mall. It lasted only one day, offered slightly under 20,000 books for sale and grossed about \$10,000. Marj Bethune planned and led that sale entirely on her own, and her plan is the template on which we have based the sale's evolution ever since. Each sale since has been increasingly larger and earned increasingly larger sums of money. The evolving statistics over seven years make interesting reading.

Number of shoppers

2012	4,474 shoppers (no Thursday stats available)
2013	6,250 shoppers (including Thursday)
	5,950 shoppers (not including Thursday)

Increased number of shoppers comparing numbers without Thursday @ 1500 or @ 33%

More than 200 volunteers

Approximately 75,000 books and related items on offer

Revenue facts

<u>Year</u>	<u>Gross Revenue</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Net Revenue</u>
2007	\$10,253.50	\$1,966.75	\$8,286.75
2008	\$16,235.58	\$4,447.15	\$11,788.43
<i>2008 was the only year we were required to pay anything for space. We paid utilities for the sorting space. Hence the relatively higher expense figure.</i>			
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	\$67,357.71	\$7,729.24	\$59,628.47
2013	\$88,172.70	\$7,003.27	\$81,169.43
2014			

Unexpected and Welcome

Virginia recently received a cheque for \$282.05 (U.S.) from Better World Books, the Michigan company which received the last of our usable Book Sale leftovers. They gave us boxes for packing them up, and then sent a truck to retrieve them ...all without charge. The books are re-used as books in situations of need; however they have also paid us for them. Although payment was a possibility, it was not certain. This sum should be added to the current total income from the 2013 book sale !!!

Well done Terri, Kathy, Trevor and everyone else who helped with the post sale cleanup.

Ben Robinson,

Children's and Youth Services Librarian

You can find him (once the snow finally disappears) riding gleefully through the GORBA trails, playing Ultimate Frisbee, organizing croquet, bocce or horseshoes in a friendly backyard – or reading a Picture book to his wife or to a group of his best friends. Ben Robinson, the newly-appointed head of the Children's library, is an active person, one who has assumed his new position with positive gusto.

A graduate of Brock University with a Bachelor's degree in Communications, Music and Culture, of the University of Guelph with a Master's degree in History where his thesis investigated Baseball History, and an MLS from the University of Western Ontario. Ben started at the library as Info staff on Sundays, then went on to take a key part in developing the Robert Munsch portal. He created much of the content, evaluated many videos and collected community leaders to read Munsch stories in ten different native languages. He also contributed many entries to the *In the Best of Health* blog on the library website.

Since January 2014, he has burst from the starting gate quickly becoming enthusiastic about his new position, with praise for the expertise and knowledge of his colleagues and for his role working with children and parents. He has taken on the challenge of reading the collection starting with the Picture Books. He chooses one picture book per week and reads it to his wife and to his friends and recommends that all adults follow his example to appreciate this engaging resource. Presently, he is reading Junior Fiction, but Graphic novels have become his favourite with their stories and intriguing illustrations.

In the immediate future, Ben would like to highlight hidden parts of the Children's collection by improving the signage using the Chapters merchandising model. He has already visited two schools to tell parents and children that the library is more than a warehouse of books and videos. At King George and Victory schools, he introduced parents and children to Homework Help and other useful databases like Muzzy for learning many languages and Learn4Life which has a Math review course for bewildered parents.

A controversial innovation has been the introduction of video games to the library, games for Wii, Playstation and X Boxes. Ben strongly believes that the library should cater to all different interests of library patrons – from the intellectual to entertainment. Children and teens can find a refuge in the library to read books, to explore knowledge through E-sources, or to play or borrow video games.

For the new library, Ben has a vision of including a "Maker Space", an area where children and teens can investigate new interests like building robots with the tools and other resources available to inspire their creativity and learning new skills. He'd also like to have a separate Teen room where adolescents can hang out and play or explore their interests. In his short time in his new role, Ben has seen the value of the library in providing a safe and interesting space



Evening for Book Lovers: Red Carpet Edition

On Saturday February 5, more than 175 library supporters attended the Guelph Public Library's "*Evening for Book Lovers: Red Carpet Edition*" fundraiser at the Hanlon Convention Centre. Greeted by the *Paperbag Princess*, participants, invited to dress as their favourite movie and book characters, were directed to follow the red carpet into the dining room and their assigned table. There, the evening featured Guest Speaker award-winning entertainer Judy Croon, dinner and several chances to bid and win an array of auction items. A very popular attraction was the photo booth, complete with costume accessories.

The evening, which was hosted by local radio personalities Kevin Kelly and Lisa Richards, raised over \$14,000 toward the GPL's campaign for a new main library. Thank you to everyone who attended and sponsored this year's event. Save this date for 2015: plan to attend the GPL's Book Lovers fundraising evening on **Saturday, February 28, 2015.**



GUELPH PUBLIC LIBRARY

100 Norfolk Street
Guelph, Ontario
N1H 4J6
Phone: 519-824-6220

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 in the Library?**GPL's HOW-TO EXPERT FESTIVAL****COMING SOON!**

Guelph, ON – Do you love to learn new things but never seem to have enough time? The Guelph Public Library is hosting a **HOW-TO Expert Festival** on Saturday, March 29th, where everyone can learn something new in just 10 minutes!

14 Experts. 10 Minutes 100% Free.

Think of all the wonderful skills you can learn in such a short time...the GPL's *HOW-TO Expert Festival* will be held on Saturday, March 29th from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Main Library (100 Norfolk Street).

Come join us and learn something new!

**2014 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (to April 2015)**

Enclosed is my/our annual membership fee and/or donation.

- ☐ New ☐ Renewal ☐ **Cash** ☐ **Cheque** (payable to Friends of the Guelph Public Library)
☐ **\$10 Individual** ☐ **\$5 Senior (65+) /Student** ☐ **\$15 Family (list all members)**
☐ **Donation**

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Postal Code: _____ Day Phone: (____) - ____ - _____ Evening Phone: (____) - ____ - _____

Email: _____

If you wish to help out (it's voluntary), please indicate your interests:

Book Sale: ☐ Sorting ☐ Set-up ☐ Publicity ☐ Transportation ☐ Sale Day ☐ Cash ☐ Clean-up

Other Friends Activities: ☐ Fundraising ☐ Newsletter ☐ Advocacy ☐ Author Visits

☐ Special Events ☐ Membership

MAIL COMPLETED FORM & CHEQUE PAYABLE TO: Friends of the Guelph Public Library, c/o Guelph Public Library, 100 Norfolk St., Guelph, N1H 4J6