

Mr. Dewey and Friends

Newsletter of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library

About a new main library for Guelph

It is frustrating in the extreme to see and hear the same tiresome misperceptions repeated in public, in the press and by citizens and local officials who do not understand either the need for a new main library or the benefit it would bring to downtown Guelph. A new Library would not be an expense, but rather an economic benefit. Viewing it as something the City cannot afford is unfortunately short-sighted.

Libraries are not about books, they are about information in all of its forms, and in this day and age that means electronic information as well as the printed word on paper. Contrary to the opinions of some, the electronic information you pull out of the air, free of charge, onto your cell phone as you walk down the street is not the kind of valid, verifiable electronic information to which libraries give access. Credible research information must be accessed through a library or by paying a prohibitively high price.

Guelph does not need a new main library to offer more of what is available in the branches. The main library is the hub of a sophisticated information system. The branches are popular reading depots and if you look around a branch you will realize that there is virtually no office or technical space, because all of the administration and technical work in support of the entire system goes on at the main library.

The main library is the location of almost all of the professional librarians. These are the people who choose the material for the entire collection in all of the branches. They acquire and process it. They create and maintain the technical systems that give access to it and that supply information in electronic format. All of those things are done in the main library to service the entire library system.

The main library is the only location for the reference collections. In particular, the Archives which conserve the city's history and include the Guelph Mercury collection, specialized reference tools and the business collection, are located in the main library. The main library is also the location of the professional librarians who give reference service for the entire collection.

To replicate all of these services in all of the branches would be infinitely more expensive and labour intensive than the policy which has all of the administration located centrally for the entire system.

Branch libraries will not do what a main library must do. School libraries will not do what a main library must do. The University of Guelph library will not do what a main public library must do. The main public library is the nerve and administrative centre of a sophisticated information service.



A Globe and Mail article dated November 3rd, 2014 and still readily available online describes the new Halifax main library and summarizes the enormous economic benefit brought to Halifax and to other major centres by modern libraries in the downtown core.

“In a city often focused on history, it is a glistening monument to the future: Halifax’s new central library, is no ode to the paper books of libraries past. It’s designed to be a gathering place, a learning space and an innovation centre. What will happen inside the building, though, may have less of an impact on the city than what happens around it.”

Continued

The Halifax Regional Municipality is consciously using the [\\$57.6-million library](#) to attract development along Spring Garden's bustling retail corridor."

The article goes on to articulate the development attracted into the downtown cores of Halifax, Ottawa, Vancouver and Calgary by new, large, modern main libraries.

"The library is crucial infrastructure needed to bring Halifax into the 21st century", says [Wadih Fares](#), who, on top of developing two [nearby properties] just announced a \$100,000 donation to the branch. Mr. Fares sees it as a stimulus for downtown growth, likening it to the first spark in a fireplace: "It will ignite the whole fire."

In response to the tired cliché that the internet is rendering libraries obsolete, the article points out

- "..... The dissemination of information no longer requires a printing press, but it remains a core component of democracy. Cities across Canada are building new libraries with a focus on broader learning and community building – and they're being financed in ways that complement and encourage nearby development. Those branches are paying their cities back in spades, bringing in greater density and community engagement.
- "New libraries are increasingly being seen as community focal points. Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson called a new central branch an "[important community asset](#)" when campaigning for re-election in October.
- In Calgary, [a \\$245-million new central library](#) has been announced for the city's East Village, which is undergoing a multi-decade, 49-acre brownfield redevelopment project to transform it from neglected neighbourhood to family-friendly community.

"We consider the library an educational anchor to the development" of the East Village, says Susan Veres, vice-president of marketing for the Calgary Municipal Land Corp. (CMLC), which was created by the city in 2007 to redevelop the neighbourhood. "I'm really proud that the library is the linchpin for all that," says Bill Ptacek, CEO of the Calgary Public Library.



Nearly 350,000 people crossed the threshold of Guelph's main, downtown library last year. Experience has shown that library use increases exponentially when new, modern facilities are created. When the Baker Street redevelopment occurs, anchored by a new main library as envisioned, that traffic will be in the downtown core and library users will take advantage of the opportunity to carry out other business at the same time.

Your responsibility as a library supporter

is to understand this concept and share it at every opportunity.

help to inform those who need to be informed.

help Guelph to develop and move forward into the 21st century.

Virginia Gillham, Chair
Friends of the Gueph Public Library

To read the full Globe and Mail article online CTRL+click on this link:
<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/property-report/libraries-lend-a-hand-to-development/article21428477/>

**Friends
of the Guelph Public Library**

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(Adjunct) Secretary

Newsletter Editors

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Susan Ratcliffe

Technical Support

Linda Kearns

The Executive welcomes your comments and suggestions. Executive members may be contacted individually, through the organization's email address - friendsguelphlibrary@gmail.com - , or by written submissions clearly addressed to "Friends of the GPL Executive" and dropped off at any Library branch.

Thanks, Farewell and Welcome

The October municipal election has passed, leaving Guelph with a new Council and new Mayor Cam Guthrie. The Friends would like to thank past councillors and especially our Mayor Karen Farbridge for their service and for their support and contributions to bringing our new downtown library closer to reality. We appreciate the open discussions, the explorations of new ideas, and the thoughtful new vision for the future of the Baker Street district with our new library as its core and heart.

Recently, a beautifully expanded and renovated Carnegie library opened in downtown Fergus. Wellington County Warden George Bridge praised the new library with these words: "Libraries are now becoming the new central, cultural hub of our communities – enhancing the quality of life. This is so important." Librarian Mary Lloyd added, "The new library is an investment in our youth, seniors, our community for many

2014 Book Sale

As has happened for eight years in succession, the 2014 book sale exceeded all its predecessors by any statistical measure. We began with nearly 78,000 scrupulously selected and sorted items and sold nearly 80% of that inventory. Our final gross revenue was augmented by a generous \$1000 donation to support free books for all visiting children, a donation returning part of one of our technical expenses, and subsequent web sales of special books. The total gross revenue exceeded \$101,000 and expenses were less than \$10,000, leaving the sale with a profit of more than \$91,000.

We are grateful to our dedicated core committee, our more than 200 volunteers, and the donors of the items we sell. We are grateful to the Wellington County Catholic School Board for making this year's sale space available to us, and to their wonderful staff for being so accommodating. We are grateful for the enormous support we receive from the staff of the Guelph Public Library. ***Finally, we are grateful, indeed, to the more than 7000 enthusiastic shoppers who crammed the sale over its three day period and made it another huge success and who have, over time, made this event iconic in Guelph.....your enthusiasm and obvious support of the Guelph Public Library are what keep us at this.***

All of the revenue from the Book Sale is used to support the Guelph Public Library in one way or another. In the recent past The Friends have made the inaugural \$10,000 donation to establish the Guelph Public Library endowment fund, have purchased a significant piece of art for the library, and have provided the matching funds to allow the Library to apply for a grant. A very large percentage of the book sale revenue, however, is invested in a separate account with the Guelph Community Foundation with the intention that it will be a major gift when activity finally begins in earnest for a new main library.

2015 Book Sale

The 2015 book sale is scheduled for the weekend of October 23,24,25. A site has not yet been identified, though there are several on a list to be pursued. Elsewhere in this edition of Mr. Dewey you will see an information piece titled “Can You Help Us” which describes exactly the space we are looking for and articulates some of the main parameters explaining our needs and timing. We will appreciate any help that any of our supporters might provide.

Organizing this sale is a monumental task involving a core committee of about 15 people, and more than 200 volunteers.

- We need help with sorting, including people with strong backs to help with strong-back tasks such as the removal of materials not suitable for sale.
- We need a platoon of volunteers **with vehicles**, to pick up donations from the various library branches. This year we hope to accomplish this job entirely with volunteers, as our paid courier has told us he will not be available again. This task works best with two people, and strong backs are useful as there is lifting of boxes involved. One person to drive and one strong back works just fine.
- We need sorters and super-sorters (trained, experienced sorters). Sorting will take place several times a week beginning immediately after Labour Day. Sorters may sign up for as few or as many shifts as their life schedules permit.
- We need people to assist with hospitality, both during the sorting and at the time of the sale
- We need people to assist at the time of the sale, monitoring the floor/assisting shoppers, restocking the tables and staffing the cash desks.
- We need someone with organizational skills to begin well in advance to organize the post sale activities. These include the final inventory and the dissemination of the leftovers to various charities. The template for this activity is in place, but a leader and a working group are needed.
- We will undoubtedly need people to assist with other chores that will arise as planning unfolds.



Working on the book sale is an enormously satisfying volunteer activity with great camaraderie. If you have not assisted with the book sale in the past, but are interested in being involved, please send an email message to fgplbooksale@gmail.com with the words **booksale volunteer** in the header.



2015 BOOK SALE -- CAN YOU HELP US?

After eight years, The Friends of the Library annual book sale has become an iconic, community event in Guelph; however the problem of an appropriate location is again a major threat to its continued existence.

The Friends are grateful to the Wellington County Catholic District School Board and their accommodating staff for making the former White Rose building available to us for the 2014 sale space. We are enormously grateful to the Christie family for hosting us for the previous four successive years.

Neither of these options will be a possibility in the future, however, and we are desperate to find a space which will be available regularly for future sales.

We are thankful for the enormous support we receive from the staff of the Guelph Public Library. And also from the Guelph community -- our dedicated organizers and volunteers, and the hundreds of supporters who donate (and purchase!) the thousands of items which we sell.

We hope that with input from our community supporters we will be able to identify and commit to a long-term arrangement for a suitable space for future sales.

WHAT WE NEED: for 3 months annually
15,000 sq ft of dry, empty space
Good lighting
Good wiring
A loading dock would be a bonus

FACTS TO CONSIDER:

We cannot easily shift our date significantly. A Spring date would conflict with the Elora Festival Book Sale with whom we have something of a partnership arrangement. A summer date would drastically reduce the availability of both volunteers and customers.

We cannot afford to pay. Anything close to going rates for our needs would be as much as, or more than, the current income of the sale.

We are a registered charity and can offer tax receipts.

We are very good and responsible tenants and always leave the premises in better shape than we found them.



Donations



Sorting



Preparation



Sale!



Meet Steve Kraft CEO, Guelph Public Library

How could any child resist the lure of a new book to read sweetened by an ice cream cone? In the little library attached to the bakery in his tiny home town of Dashwood, located on the road between Exeter and Grand Bend, the librarian was also the baker and she dispensed both books and treats. The sweet congruence of books and ice cream can shape a small boy for life.

When he graduated from English and History at Western, Steve decided he didn't want to stand in front of a classroom, and instead chose to go to Library School. After he graduated in 1983, his friend told him about applying for a posted part-time job as a children's librarian in Guelph. On a whim, he applied, was interviewed - and to his surprise (and to the surprise of his friend) - he was offered the job. Particularly to Steve's surprise, because he did not even know where Guelph was and had to commute from London to Guelph. When asked who had hired him, Steve confessed that both interviewers denied offering him the job. Thirty years later, he is still at GPL.

After serving in various roles through those years, he was appointed to take over as CEO on October 1, 2014 to replace Kitty Pope who had accepted a position in Windsor, her home town. He was thrilled to take charge during a time of great change, a growing digital age offering library patrons materials and prospects beyond physical books.

This change of focus goes far beyond e-books. Steve believes that the initial excitement in this format has now died off because of the proliferation of devices, and the now obsolescence of early devices. To replace those original readers has become expensive, especially if they are used only for travel.

Steve has a strong vision for, and confidence in, the library of the future, a library that will become even more of a community centre once there is larger, more flexible space in a new building. The new Tech Bar, coming to the present library in the next months, will give a taste of the possibilities. He is confident that our new main library will be built in Baker Street in partnership with Conestoga College and the YM/YWCA.

What can you say about a CEO who has a taste for the weird, for gory detective stories, for classic Film Noir, for a heritage Guelph cottage and for walking a twelve-year-old Rottweiler? You can say - your Friends look forward to walking with Steve through the door of that shining new library to open a new chapter in the book of Guelph.

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

**7:30pm 2nd floor meeting room,
Guelph Public Library, main library
100 Norfolk St.**

Featured Speaker:

Steve Kraft, CEO, Guelph Public Library

**Come and hear Steve's thoughts and vision
for the future of the Library under the new City Council.**

The Friends present Guelph Reads

Wednesday, May 13, 7:00pm
2nd floor meeting room,
Guelph Public Library, main library
100 Norfolk Street

Back by popular demand, Guelph Reads will take place in May. The format will be about one hour of presentation and debate by the panel members after which the audience will have the opportunity to vote for the winner. Audience members will then retire for refreshments while the votes are counted, after which a door prize will be awarded and the winning book will be announced.

Guelph Reads has become a very popular event over the past several years. This year's moderator will be Marva Wisdom. The celebrity panel members and their chosen titles are:



Ian Findlay: Circling the Midnight Sun
by James Raffan.



Maggie Laidlaw: This Changes Everything
by Naomi Klein.

Kithio Mwanzai: A Nation Worth Ranting About
by Rick Mercer.

Susan Ratcliffe: The Golden Spruce: a true story of
myth, madness and greed
by John Vaillant.



All of the books are available through the Guelph Public Library and local book stores.

A SHORT, FUN, LITERARY PROJECT

Are you interested in books and authors?

If so, we have a project you might find interesting. It would be a one-time thing (rather than an ongoing commitment) that could help the library and would probably be fun for you.

If this intrigues you, please contact us at friendsguelphlibrary@gmail.com

We have lost a Friend



**Joan Goddard
1930-2014**

In 2012 we noted in an edition of Mr. Dewey the sad loss of John Goddard. Only two years later we are mourning his wife, Joan.

A long time resident of Guelph, Joan spent her career in the Department of Nutritional Sciences at the University of Guelph. She was involved in local politics, various book and bridge clubs and was a past president of the CFUW. She was the mother of three daughters, and she had seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

John and Joan were strong supporters of the Guelph Public Library and of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library, and they were the architects of the Friends' first membership database. Joan also acted as an auditor for the Friends for several years. We miss them both.

GUELPH PUBLIC LIBRARY

100 Norfolk Street
Guelph ON
N1H4J6
Phone: 519-824-6220
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: Fall 2015

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

Website:
www.friendsguelphlibrary.ca

Newsletter Editors

Susan Ratcliffe, Marilyn Crooks

What's New in the Library?



Guelph Public Library will host a

SPELLING BEE

Grades 4, 5, and 6 Students
Saturday, April 25th, 2015
10 am to Noon
Main Library

Spectacular spellers? Do you think you have what it takes to be Guelph's Top Speller? Then register today at www.GuelphPL.ca or in person at any library location

Parents, family, and friends are encouraged to watch and cheer on contestants as they bid for the top spelling title. The official dictionary will be the Canadian Oxford Dictionary; the contestant with the most points at the end of the event will win!

A pizza party will follow the spelling bee for all those who participated and a super prize will be awarded to the top speller.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

April 2015 - April 2016

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** (donations meeting Revenue Canada terms and conditions will qualify for a tax receipt)

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 ☐ Publicity ☐ Newsletter ☐ Advocacy ☐ Author Visits ☐ Special Events
☐ Membership ☐ Book Clubs ☐ Literacy Issues

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