

Mr. Dewey and Friends

Newsletter of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library

The New Headquarters Library – Voting for Vision

Very early in 2004, a group of citizens came together to form The Friends of the Guelph Public Library in response to the November 2003 municipal election. The city council elected at that time seemed to lack understanding of the need for strong library service in the city, and in particular, appeared poised to discard completely the project initiated by the previous council, to create a new and desperately needed headquarters library in the downtown core.

Since that time, the group has supported a significant number of information and literacy initiatives; however their main focus has been, and remains, to keep the overwhelming need for a new headquarters library in the eyes of both the citizens and the city council of Guelph. A subcommittee of the Friends' Executive, focused exclusively on the subject of advocacy, has been hard at work for many months.

The next three months, leading up to the 2006 municipal election, will be the most important in the short existence of the Friends

of the Guelph Public Library. The group is determined to make the new headquarters library an election issue, and to educate voters to scrutinize candidates' platforms and choose candidates with an understanding of the importance of strong library service and the need for a strong headquarters library.

In his inspiring words to the recent Amazing Possibilities conference at the University of Guelph, former Winnipeg mayor Glenn Murray demonstrated with concrete examples that focusing on long-range planning and cultural enrichment in cities actually generates economic wealth. To choose not to do things that enhance quality of life in a city, because they cost money, is short-sighted. It may save expenditures in the short term, but it will kill the city and its economy in the longer term.

Mr. Murray used libraries as examples repeatedly in his anecdotes. Citizens with vision, who ultimately create unique, exciting, culturally and economically rich cities, understand the need for strong public institutions, including libraries.

Ask questions and vote carefully.

Virginia Gillham, Chair
Friends of the Guelph Public Library





**Presentation to John Snell
Honorary Life Membership
in Friends of the Guelph Public Library
April 17, 2006**

I am very pleased to announce that the recipient of the Honorary Life Membership in the Friends of the Guelph Public Library is John Snell. This recognition is given to a person who has rendered notable service to our library and community. We believe that John is certainly deserving of this award. Through his leadership and vision the present library was built, an excellent collection established, and a new level of professional service provided to the residents of Guelph. For twenty-seven years, John faithfully served our community as Chief Librarian.

John grew up in rural Saskatchewan, attended a one-room public school, and then high school. He graduated from the University of Saskatchewan, and started his career teaching high school during the Great Depression when teachers' salaries were \$400 a year. John was one of only three teachers in the school and he soon became its principal.

In 1939 John enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force and served overseas as a radar specialist and education officer. After the war, John taught briefly in British Columbia, and then returned to university,



earning his library science degree at McGill. After graduating John served at the London Public Library where he met his wife, Jean, and then in Welland before coming to Guelph in 1950.

In 1950 Guelph's population was 27,000 and the University of Guelph was its southernmost border. But the character of Guelph was about to change, and John recognized this. General Electric was the first of many industries to come to the city; the population started to grow; and the demand for library services increased.

Under John's leadership and with the support of the Library Board, great strides were taken: the collection was reorganized according to national standards, and considerable emphasis was placed on collection development, a tradition that continues today. John fought for reasonable book budgets from city council and was successful; he and his staff implemented new programs to promote reading, and John attended meetings of the Library Board and worked closely with its members. Recognizing that the services of the Guelph Public Library should reach out to the community, he inaugurated its first bookmobile in 1976. In 1977 John retired as Chief Librarian, having served his profession and his community with distinction.

We are very pleased to present this award to John tonight.

Bill McKinnie, Past Chair
Friends of the Guelph Public Library



For more than twenty years, the original bookmobile continued John's initiative in meeting the library needs of rapidly growing Guelph. Only an act of vandalism suspended its activities. In the spring of 2006, a new, improved and fully accessible Bookmobile restored this service when it took to the road once again.



Left to right: Lisa Cunningham, Andrea Curtis, Sharron Turner, Kerry Hannah, Melissa Mazar, Colleen Lipp.
Absent: Gail Stedman and Julie Almond Raso.

Each year the staff of the Children's Department sign out over 210,000 items, answer nearly 14,000 requests for information and entertain 13,000 youngsters with over 300 programs. Clearly, the Children's Department is an energetic and lively spot - and that's the way we like it. In our efforts to create a warm and welcoming environment for Guelph's children and teens, we have tossed aside many of the traditional library rules. Instead of the expected shushed tones, one is more likely to hear the raucous giggling of preschoolers playing in our picture book area or the rowdy singing of those attending one of our many storytimes. In addition to these popular story-sharing sessions, we also offer an ever-expanding variety of programming for youngsters from birth through adolescence. Musicians, magicians, arts and crafts, and more; these programs are not designed to teach children to read but as opportunities to promote the library's collections and services, foster a love of books and reading and encourage life-long library use.

With these goals in mind, we also offer an annual summer reading club. Generously sponsored by TD Canada Trust and the Friends of the GPL, the club is designed to encourage reading throughout the summer months. This year's theme - "A Quest for Heroes" - will capture the imagination of many young readers. Including club-related events we offer 10 programs per week during the months of July and August. School holidays and vacation breaks traditionally mark some of our busiest periods. Unfortunately, our current facilities often cannot meet the demand for the quality free programs provided. During March Break, library programs frequently draw numbers far exceeding the 210 participants allowed by fire safety regulations.

Children's Department

Space is always at a premium at the GPL. With no special area to call their own, we worry that teens may feel overlooked and underserved by their public library. In an effort to encourage a sense of belonging, we have developed a selection of programs designed especially for junior and senior high school students. Offerings include book clubs, art workshops and a distinct summer reading club to call their own. The Children's Department also houses a substantial collection of books and CDs intended to appeal to this growing user group.

In total, the Children's Department houses nearly 80,000 volumes. From board books and picture books for the very young, easy reads and chapter books for beginning readers and novels and the increasingly popular graphic novels for the teen crowd, we aim to provide readers of all ages with something that will strike their fancy. We also offer fiction and non-fiction books in French as well as a representative collection of international language books. Our collection of non-fiction titles includes books on nearly every topic under the sun, with special attention paid to those areas covered by Ontario's standardized curriculum. This core collection of materials for children and teens functions as the basis for a system-wide sharing of resources. A large number of items are shipped to branch locations each day, providing quick and easy access to valuable information, no matter your location.

It takes a special kind of person to work in the Children's Department of a public library. Few of the traditional library stereotypes hold true. In addition to typical library duties, staff members are often heard singing children's songs under their breath, seen cutting and pasting their most recent crafty creation or out in the community, raising awareness of all the library has to offer. Working with children certainly allows us to express our creativity in almost every aspect of our jobs.

With over 150 years of combined library experience, we share a wealth of knowledge and expertise. Though many of us have worked at the GPL for most of our adult lives, we each bring distinct skills and areas of interest to the Children's Department. With educational backgrounds in teaching, history, business, neuro-psychology, fine art, travel and tourism, and of course library science, we are a varied group. However, as one may expect, we all share a love of books and reading. More importantly, we are devoted to sharing that love with the children and young adults we serve.

Colleen Lipp,
Children's Services

Friends of the Guelph Public Library

Executive

- Bill McKinnie, Past Chair
- Virginia Gillham, Chair
- Wendy Ashlock, Secretary
- Ann Murray, Treasurer

Members at Large

- Marjorie Bethune
- Liz Macrae
- Jon Wright

Ex-Officio Members

- Norman McLeod,
Chief Librarian
- Alan Pickersgill,
Library Board

Newsletter Editors

- Marilyn Crooks
- Susan Ratcliffe

Advocacy

- Mary Mulholland

The Executive welcomes Joy Simpson as the Friends' Webmeister at www.friendsguelphlibrary.ca

All Executive Committee members were confirmed at the Annual General Meeting held on April 19, 2006. The Executive Committee welcomes comments and suggestions from members.

Reserve Wednesday, April 18, 2007 for next year's AGM.



Treasurer Ann Murray renews a membership.

Friends of the Guelph Public Library Membership renewals

The coming months will be crucial to the mission of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library. Initiatives planned to keep the issue of a new headquarters library in the eye of the public and the city council as the November election approaches, will require some financial resources. The only source of revenue is the very modest fee for membership in the group (\$10 for individuals, \$15 for families, \$5 for students/seniors).

Renewal reminders have been circulating since March; however a significant portion of last year's members have not renewed. If you are part of that group, or if you have never been a member, won't you please take a moment to drop a cheque into the mail, or deliver it to any branch of the library on your next visit?

You can renew your membership with the form on Page 8 of this issue, or download a form from our website (www.friendsguelphlibrary.ca).

Urgently needed: Membership Chair Can you help us?

You do not need to be a member of the Executive or attend their meetings. The ideal individual has an affection for organization, a facility with Word and Excel, and access to a laptop computer (the laptop is an asset, not a requirement).

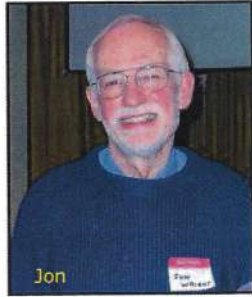
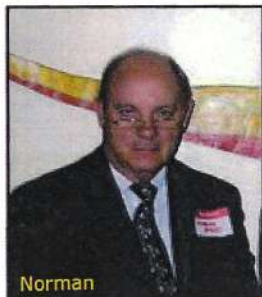
Duties include receiving membership applications and fees, keeping a database of members, monitoring a series of annual action dates and responding appropriately with renewal reminders and other information.

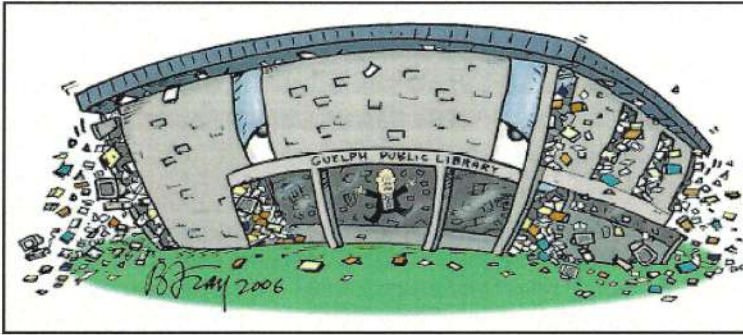
If you feel you could help in this way, please contact the Chair, Virginia Gillham, at viriniagillham@aol.com.

**With a little help from its FRIENDS,
a great LIBRARY thrives.**

Become a Friend, and support your Library throughout the community. Volunteers are needed to deliver books to residents of the new seniors' residence, The Royal on Gordon, and other city locations. Can you help? Contact Karen Cafarella at the Main Branch, 824-6220.

Friends & Faces at the Annual General Meeting





We are grateful to Brian Fray for his donation of this wonderful cartoon to illustrate the downtown library's space problems. We will be making great use of it in posters and bookmarks to keep this issue in the public eye. Watch for it! Thanks so much, Brian.

Mary Mulholland, Advocacy Chair

Public Libraries Essential to a Vibrant Community

Several members of the Friend's Executive attended the May 5, 2006 **Amazing Possibilities Conference** sponsored by the Guelph Civic League and the University of Guelph's School of Environmental Design and Rural Development. The Conference was a tremendous success and the organizers are to be congratulated for their vision and commitment to bettering our Guelph community. The conference quickly sold out with over 600 people registered, including representatives from 40 communities and several members of Guelph city council. Another conference is in the works for the fall.

Guest speakers were James Howard Kunstler, author of many books and articles on urban sprawl, including his current book **The Long Emergency**; Patrick Condon, a UBC professor and landscape architect who has had first-hand experience designing urban communities; and Glen Murray, charismatic speaker and former mayor of Winnipeg.

Glen Murray specifically highlighted the importance of libraries as an essential part of vibrant, exciting, high-quality, authentic, unique neighbourhoods and public spaces. During his two terms as mayor, a new Winnipeg main library was built with funding from both public and private sources. Murray argued that good libraries are one of the key factors which attract and retain highly-paid knowledge workers to a city, and that they generate economic benefits, something which Chief Librarian Norman McLeod has argued many times. According to Murray, well-planned and developed downtowns are "cash cows" giving back more money to the community than big box stores like Wal-Mart.

For Murray, those cities which are not planning for the future and are not looking at the quality of life are "loser cities which are becoming no-places with big-boxes, sprawl, and chain-store blandness". It is no longer good enough just to pave pot-holes, repair pipes, and hire more police officers. Instead, City Council must provide the leadership and vision, working with planners and community members to understand the culture and values of a city like Guelph and to develop planning policies which will emphasize our city's history, traditions

and civic pride. To say that a city is "open for business" is to imply that any development is good development. As Murray said: "When you hear that in your city plan, start crying."

Like Murray, both Kunstler and Condon argued that public space and place-making are critically important. Indeed 80% of us now live in cities. Kunstler argued that we will no longer be able to rely on fossil fuel as the main source of our energy supply, and that alternative energy sources will not be enough. To get ahead of this "long emergency" we will have face this crisis head on. Suburban sprawl, reliance on the automobile, low density housing, predatory corporations like Wal-Mart, and megacities will not be sustainable. Instead we must honour public space and live in a hopeful present, re-creating places which give us a sense of our past and a sense of our future.

Condon listed seven principles for sustainable community design. These include: conserve land and energy by creating compact, walkable neighbourhoods which have basic services within a 5-minute walk of their homes; provide a mix of housing types in the same neighbourhood and on the same street; design communities for people with all dwellings facing the street in order to promote social interaction; ensure that car storage and services are handled at the rear of the dwelling; provide an inter-connected street network in a grid or modified grid pattern to ensure variety; provide narrow streets shaded by rows of trees in order to save costs and to provide a greener, friendlier environment; and preserve the natural environment and promote natural drainage systems.

It is clear that Guelph is a city which has amazing possibilities. What is clearly needed is the leadership and vision to realize this. Please consider this when you go to the polls in November to elect a new City Council, a council which will now make decisions for the next four years. Please do vote. In 2003 only 36% of our city voted. We can do better.

Bill MacKinnie
Past Chair

All in a Day's Work at Library

In one typical day of operation —

-  4,268 items are borrowed
-  4,265 items are returned
-  178 reference questions are answered
-  148 items are added to the collection
-  19 people will register for a library card
-  39 children and teens will enjoy a program offered in the Children's Department and at our branch libraries
-  489 requests are placed through our in-house and online catalogue
-  800-1,000 hits arrive on our website



The Search Has Narrowed

A new Main Branch Library may be a step closer to becoming a reality. Following its decision not to purchase the preferred site, the Post Office building on Wyndham Street, City Council authorized the creation of a search committee in June 2005. After a year's investigation of fourteen sites, the Committee's interim report has narrowed the search to three locations:

- ? Expansion of the current site on Norfolk Street,
- ? Section of the Baker Street parking lot not required by the new parking parkade,
- ? Unspecified downtown location currently privately owned.

The Committee will continue its comprehensive analysis of the viability of each of the remaining sites, and in its final report later this year will make its recommendations and provide sufficient information to meet the guidelines of the city's capital budget process.

GPL Staff News

Retirement — Mary Ramotar, Reference Librarian for 37 years, has begun a new chapter — with her recent retirement she will pursue her interests in bird-watching, the environment and world travel.

Departure — Cathryn Rodney, Head of Bullfrog Mall and Bookmobile, after 19 years with the Guelph Public Library has accepted the appointment as Chief Librarian of the Town of Bracebridge.

Women of Distinction — Mary Ellen Cann is a library technician and well-known teacher of Scottish dance. She was nominated for her 25 years of dancer training, mentoring and inspiration. She also volunteers in nursing homes and in fundraising for Heart and Stroke, Cystic Fibrosis, the Multicultural Association, the Guelph Civic Museum and the Guelph Public Library Children's programs.



Susan Ratcliffe works part-time at the Information Desk and is an active community volunteer. She was nominated for her advocacy of Guelph's heritage and her work in various arts organizations, including the River Run Centre, the Guelph Arts Centre, the Eden Mills Writers' Festival, Heritage Guelph, Guelph Historical Society and the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario.

Your Friends offer congratulations and thanks for your outstanding contributions to the Guelph Public Library and the Guelph community.

Building News

Main Branch. The process of planning for an expanded new Main Branch continues; the Committee struck to recommend a suitable downtown location has presented an interim report identifying three possible locations.

South End Branch. Neighbours are looking forward to "their own" branch library at Clair and Farley Roads. Construction is slightly behind schedule; however, the official opening is expected some time in the Fall.



Got Homework?

Get Free Online Help From Your Library



Real Time... Real Tutors... Real Results

- Connect One-to-One With Real Tutors
- Accessible from the library or home
- Grades 4-12 & College Intro
- Math, Science, English & Social Studies

www.library.guelph.on.ca

519-824-6220

Guelph is Reading!

Guelph Public Library Book Clubs

GPL Adult Book Club

In its first year, approximately 25 readers registered for each of the monthly sessions (10:30 am, 3rd Monday; 7pm, 3rd Tuesday). While many readers borrowed the selected titles, an average of ten people attended each session. Club members have had lively discussions of the following titles: *The time traveler's wife*, *Canoe Lake*, *Memoirs of a geisha*, *The kite runner*, *Night*, *The glass castle*.

The Clubs will reconvene in September. Titles for the fall session include *A complicated kindness*, *The Poisonwood bible*, *The wreckage*, *The girls*, and *The mermaid chair*. Prospective members may now borrow copies of these titles, and can register by calling Laurel at 824-6220 or emailing bookclub@library.guelph.on.ca.

Supporting Local Book Clubs

As a new initiative, Laurel is actively pursuing the donation of book club titles. If book club members have purchased titles in the past, she is asking them to consider donating them to the GPL book club program. Donated books will be catalogued and retained as sets. A list of the sets will be made available to all local book clubs and the sets can be booked and borrowed for an extended loan period.



Summer Reading Clubs

Young readers were encouraged to participate in the Library's summer reading programs, July 3 to August 24.

Quest for Heroes (to Grade 6)

For each book read, readers submitted a book report and qualified for prizes — the more reading, the more chances.

Get Caught Reading (teens grade 7 to 12)

Readers completed a simple survey for each title read; each return earned a chance to win prizes.

Friends are pleased to encourage lifelong reading through support of these Library programs.



***Kiss the Sunset Pig* — the latest book from Guelph travel writer Laurie Gough**

Local travel author Laurie Gough chose The Bookshelf, Guelph, rather than a Toronto location, for the recent launch of her latest travel book. "Guelph is my hometown. I know tons of people here. I've always been torn. It is in Southern Ontario; smog warnings, I don't like winter, nothing very majestic in a scenic way, but I always come back here," she said.

The 42-year-old writer has travelled around the world. Her first travel book, *Island of the Human Heart*, was shortlisted for the Thomas Cook Travel Book Award, recognition she describes as the "Pulitzer Prize for travel writing."

Travel writing isn't just a log of what you do and where you go but rather a sense of a place, as is evident in her writing. *Kiss the Sunset Pig* opens with a familiar situation -- an argument with an American border guard. With great humour she distils a moment of frustration we can all relate too. *Kiss the Sunset Pig* offers up a witty take on the world of travel. "I find it really exhilarating. Once I sit down to write, time passes so quickly. A lot of people e-mail me asking for advice, people like my book and can relate." Her advice? To just keep writing.

Excerpted from an article by Meghan Baker Photo: Nicki Corrigan
Guelph Mercury, June 3, 2006

READING IS ABOUT MORE THAN BOOKS

Reading and literacy skills are applied to
Newspapers/magazines
IM/Email/Websites
Graphic novels
Comic Books
Video Games
Reports/manuals



Guelph Public Library

100 Norfolk Street
Guelph, Ontario
N1H 4J6
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/summer, fall and winter. Next issue: September/October 2006.

Submissions, photos and comments are welcome. They may be delivered to the Friends mailbox opposite the Circulation desk at the Main Branch.

Website: www.friendsguelphlibrary.ca

Newsletter Editors



Marilyn Crooks Susan Ratcliffe

What's new on the Library Webpage?



**Attention
Music Lovers...**

The Guelph Public Library now provides library members with free and easy access to the **Naxos Music Library**. This online collection contains over 130,000 tracks including Classical, Jazz, Blues and World Music selections and much more. A valid GPL library card is required.

To access Naxos simply visit the Guelph Public Library website at **www.library.guelph.on.ca**, click on "Internet Resources" and choose the link to the Naxos Music Library. Once you have entered all 14 digits from your library card, you will be free to browse through the extensive and diverse offerings of this online resource.

Why Should I Become a Friend of the Guelph Public Library?

Friends have the opportunity to

- meet and join an enthusiastic group of people dedicated to furthering the purposes of the Library
- participate in the programs which are offered by the Friends of the Guelph Public Library
- enjoy the satisfaction which comes from serving your community



Friends of the Guelph Public Library

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

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

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

If you are interested in becoming an active volunteer with the Friends, please indicate the area of interest:

- Program Fundraising Publicity Newsletter Advocacy Book Clubs Literacy Issues
- Author Visits Membership Hospitality Special Events Educational Exhibits Writing/Reading Workshops
- Where needed-contact me Other (please specify) _____