

Friends of
Meaford Library



94 Bayfield Street, Meaford, Ontario N4L 1N4, Canada

<https://www.friendsofmeafordlibrary.ca>

Among Friends Newsletter

Autumn 2020

WHAT A YEAR THIS HAS BEEN!

While COVID-19 played havoc with all our lives and specifically to our normally smoothly-run FOML organization and its activities, we did manage to open up the Net Shed and even made a respectable amount of money and provided the Meaford community with a much appreciated resource (see Dinah's article below). I want to offer a huge thank-you to all the volunteers this summer who worked at the Net Shed. Of course, we missed the Sunday concerts, but Paul has had assurances from the entertainers that they will be providing concerts in summer 2021.



Christine Richardson, Rosemary Palmer, and Nancy Allendorf



And the Executive continued to meet: a major part of our business was to write a Code of Conduct which will help all FOML volunteers to understand our roles in the organization. More information about this will be provided in the Spring Newsletter. We also want to acknowledge the significant contribution that Peter Bantock has made to FOML—his leadership speaks to his commitment to the Meaford Library—we wouldn't be where we are today without his help.

We are looking forward to 2021 and a resumption of our normal activities!

submitted by Leslie Ransom

It has been awhile since we have produced a newsletter but as 2020 draws to a close it is exciting to see that the pursuit of a long-time goal in our community has reached fruition. The opening of the new Meaford Public Library is the result of the work of many people over many years.



Over the last three years, The Friends of the Meaford Library (FOML) has been in partnership with the Meaford Public Library and the Municipality of Meaford on the Meaford Public Library Fundraising Committee.

As the Committee winds up its activities, we were pleased to see the successful achievement of not only reaching, but exceeding, the fundraising target of \$750,000. As of the library's opening the Committee has raised \$840,000.



interior views of new library

During the more than its 25-year history the FOML has donated over \$200,000 to the library. This includes over \$100,000 to the new library building campaign. This would not have been possible without the dedicated support of volunteers and patrons of the FOML. The support of the FOML's activities, including the Net Shed and the summer Sunday Concert Series, has

made these contributions possible.

The FOML is pleased to see the recognition of its commitment to the library reflected in the naming of the new library's multi-purpose room as the *Friends of the Meaford Library Multi-Purpose Room*. This is a testament to all the people over the last quarter century who have worked tirelessly in support of our library.

Having been a party to this goal of a new library, the FOML looks forward to the future and to continuing its support of the Meaford Public Library. In conjunction with the library, the FOML will be developing a strategic plan to guide in its ongoing efforts in support of the Meaford Public Library.
submitted by Peter Bantock



Spring of 2020 brought challenges and uncertainty to the Net Shed and its volunteers, given the advent of COVID-19 into our lives. For a while we even wondered if we'd be able to open at all, as we waited for the province to decide on COVID protocols. We were concerned about whether

or not we could accommodate the protocols in our very small store.

We did miss our usual Victoria Day opening but in early June the province announced its COVID guidelines and we were happy to see that yes, they could be observed in the Net Shed. Right away masked and socially distanced volunteers went into the Shed to tidy the shelves, dust and sweep, refresh signage – the usual seasonal pre-opening clean-up routine.

Opening day finally came on Saturday, June 20th, a full month later than our usual opening time that had stood since we first opened 25 years ago. The protocols we settled on, following provincial guidelines, soon fell into place. Anyone inside the Shed was required to wear a mask and to sanitize their hands upon entering. Only 4 people were allowed inside the building at a time, to allow for social distancing. Customers deposited cash directly into the collection box, with no need for volunteers to handle it. Volunteers cleaned surfaces (desk and stair railings) frequently.

We knew we needed to establish a 3-day quarantine for newly donated books. It

was decided to limit book donations to a single period of time, Sunday afternoons only, from 2pm to 4pm. This way, the books could sit in their unopened boxes until Wednesday, when the volunteers came in to sort and shelve the books, ready for opening on the following Saturday.

The vast majority of customers cooperated readily with the new protocols, lining up patiently while waiting their turn inside the shop, then willingly wearing masks and cleaning their hands when they entered.

We are very grateful to our community for supporting us so solidly this year, so much so that sales were down only 25% from 2019. Business was slow during our first few weeks open, but by mid-summer we were making about the same per weekend as we did in an average weekend last year.

submitted by Dinah Shields

The Friends Executive Committee

Leslie Ransom, President
Francis Richardson, Vice-President
Elaine Burns, Secretary
James Brown, Treasurer
Jane Leckenby, Membership Coordinator
Paul Wehrle, Concert/Publicity Coordinator
Rosemary Palmer, Volunteer Coordinator
Dinah Shields, Net Shed Book Coordinator
Currently vacant, Promotions & Publicity
Incumbent resigned, Past President

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Mary-Louise Craven and Ingrid Knisely have taken over editing The Friends of Meaford Library newsletter starting with this issue. If you have any ideas, photos or articles for the spring newsletter, please send to Mary-Louise:

<mailto:mlcraven@bell.net>.

And here's to all the reading we'll get done over the winter as we wait for our COVID-19 vaccines!

