

Friends of
Meaford Library



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

(<https://www.friendsofmeafordlibrary.ca>)

Among Friends Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2021

UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF FOML

While we couldn't hold any concerts last summer, we are hopeful that in August when Stage 3 is invoked, we can meet at the Rotary Harbourfront Pavilion and listen to concerts once again. Paul has assured us the musicians are as anxious to play as we are to listen.

And we know the Net Shed will offer, just like last year, a welcome venue for our weary neighbours. While we didn't raise as much money as in previous years when we started a month earlier (\$19,200), we still made \$15,300 in summer 2020 which we were able to use to support our wonderful new library. Won't it be great when we can go in there without masks on!

You're receiving this Newsletter because you are or were a member of FOML. We need to renew memberships each year (and this year the fee

is \$5, up from our long-standing \$3 fee). As well, the Executive worked on developing a Code of Conduct for members of FOML: it just formalizes how we have been operating as a collegial organization all along, but spells out the principles of practicing non-discrimination and avoiding conflict of interest. The document is on page 4, and we would ask you to read it and if you have any questions to get in touch with any member of the Executive. You will notice that on the membership form (page 6), we're asking you to check off that you have read and understand the code. Forms are available at the library and the Net Shed or just print this out.

We want to extend a heart-felt thanks to Dinah Shields who has recently resigned as Net Shed Coordinator. The Net Shed's popularity with book readers and our resulting successful fundraising is due in large part to Dinah's

stewardship. The Net Shed management moves from the capable hands of Dinah to Chris Richardson's equally capable hands. And more thanks go to Elaine Burns for her much appreciated work as Secretary of the Executive; Susanne Wussow has stepped in to fill this vacancy.

Here's to an eventual return to normalcy!

*Submitted by Leslie Ranson,
President FOML*



Volunteer Sheila Carmichael



NEWS FROM THE NET SHED COORDINATOR

It's great that we're open! We welcome everyone to return to browse for new reading material, and to consider becoming a Net Shed Volunteer.

This year, you'll notice some changes in the organization of the shelves, particularly the fiction books—for one thing we've alphabeticized the paperbacks as well as hard-copy fiction. We've also expanded the Canadiana section—on your left as you enter the Net Shed—incorporating Canadian history: now we have a shelf for “Canadian Lives,” and another shelf for “Indigenous Studies.” We welcome any books you have so that we can expand this section.

But of course, we welcome ANY books in good condition you can donate that you think other members of our community would enjoy

reading—please note we do not accept magazines, encyclopedia, outdated school books, etc.. We're accepting books on Sundays 2-4. And, because of a few incidents last summer, we've introduced a policy that gives volunteers the right to limit the number of books each person can take if customers are abusing our not-for-profit status.



For now, we'll be following the Covid protocols we had in place last year: obligatory masks, with maximum 4 people in the Net Shed at one time. But that shouldn't stop any of us from enjoying the pleasures of browsing!

Submitted by Chris Richardson

NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE

The Friends of Meaford Library are honoured to have been nominated for the Meaford Chamber of Commerce

Special Merit Award.



The Executive of the Friends of Meaford Library extend their sympathy to Rita Watchurst's family. Rita was a long-time member and volunteer at the Net Shed, always so helpful and friendly.

Submitted by Jane Leckenby

THE FRIENDS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- President – Leslie Ransom
- Vice-President – Francis Richardson
- Secretary – Susanne Wussow
- Treasurer – James Brown
- Membership Coordinator – Jane Leckenby
- Promotions & Publicity Coordinators – Paul Wehrle & Mary-Louise Craven
- Volunteer Coordinator – Rosemary Palmer
- Net Shed Book Coordinator – Chris Richardson
- Web Master – Robert Richardson
- Past President – Incumbent has resigned

WHY WE NEED THE NET SHED

In the book section of the Washington Post over the winter, the editor, Ron Charles quoted Maria A. Pallante, President and CEO of the Association of American Publishers. While she's referring to for-profit independent bookstores who serve as alternatives to online bookstores [e.g., Amazon], her view is applicable to our little not-for-profit second-hand bookstore: we provide a place for "discoverability: "We have to have bookstores; they're community experts. People that work in them are community barometers for what people want to read. And then basically, you just can't have dominant players letting you discover books or not....You can't have one dominant company deciding what readers discover and what they can buy, and dictating the terms by which publishers and authors sell their books online. You have to have competition, and you have to have lots of discoverability."

Submitted by M-L Craven

Newsletter Editors:

Mary-Louse Craven

Ingrid Knisely

We welcome your comments or anecdotes about the Net Shed to be included in a future newsletter. Send them to Mary-Louse. <mailto:mlcraven@bell.net>

Code Of Conduct: Friends of Meaford Library, Spring 2021

1. **Policy Statement:** The Friends of Meaford Library hereafter referred to as FOML is a charitable organization whose sole purpose is to support and advocate for the Meaford Public Library and assist it in achieving its goals and purposes. This Code of Conduct provides policy direction for the behaviour of the Members of the Board, and all other volunteers in the performance of their duties and responsibilities as advocates for FOML. This Code of Conduct is a general standard that augments Federal, Provincial and Municipal laws and by-laws that govern conduct. It is not intended to replace personal ethics.
2. **Application:** It applies to members of the Board and all other volunteers of FOML, a registered charitable organization under the regulations of Canada Revenue Agency and Ontario Charities Directorate.
3. **Purpose:** This Code of Conduct sets minimum standards for members of the Board and volunteers carrying out their functions. It has been designed to assist them to:
 - a. Understand the standards of conduct that are expected of them and the law that applies in relation to these standards.
 - b. Fulfill their duty to act honestly and fairly exercise reasonable care and diligence.
 - c. Act in a way that enhances the public confidence in FOML.
4. **Statement of Principle:** FOML Code of Conduct helps to ensure persons who represent FOML have a common basis of acceptable conduct. These standards are designed to provide a reference guide within which the Board and volunteers must operate. These standards exist to enhance public confidence that FOML's board and volunteers serve the public with integrity, conscientiousness, diligence and courtesy.
5. **Definitions:**
 - a. **Volunteer:** means any person who performs tasks or duties on behalf of FOML without direct financial compensation.
 - b. **The Board:** means the duly elected and/or appointed body which through the constitution and by-laws of the FOML, has the right, authority and responsibility to govern and manage FOML and the Net Shed. It includes officers and executive board members.
6. **Conflict of Interest:** Members of the Board and volunteers will act in the public interest and not engage in conflicts of interest, both apparent and real. Their private interests, financial or otherwise, and the interests of their family, friends or organizations with which members are associated with, should never compete with their duties and responsibilities to FOML. Members will not accept payments or any other personal benefit- or future advantage. Members should at the first opportunity, disclose any conflict of interest. It must be reported and noted in meeting minutes.

7. **Conduct at Meetings:** Board executive members and officers shall conduct themselves with appropriate decorum in meetings in accordance with FOML's constitution and by-laws.
8. **Confidentiality:** FOML Board and volunteers must respect the right of confidentiality of all other volunteers and members of the Board.
9. **Discrimination and Harassment:** All volunteers with FOML have a duty to treat one another and members of the public with respect. All volunteers are not to engage in any course of conduct or make comments that would constitute harassment. Harassment may be defined as any derogatory comment or objectionable behaviour by any person that is directed at another person based on race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, age, handicap, sexual orientation, marital status, or family status and any other grounds under the provisions of the Ontario Human Rights Code. FOML members are personally responsible for communications that they utter through public comment, publish in writing, including via social media, which may reasonably constitute harassment or advocate discrimination.
10. **Respect for the Code of Conduct:** All officers, Board members, and volunteers shall respect the process for complaints made under the Code of Conduct.
11. **Consequences of Non-Compliance:** Where the Board receives a report that there has been a violation of the Code of Conduct by a Board member or other volunteer, the Board by majority vote on a clear resolution may impose any one or more of the following penalties:
 - a. A reprimand
 - b. Provide a written or verbal apology
 - c. Be dismissed from the FOML
12. **Review Cycle:** This policy will be reviewed by the Board each term.

MEMBERSHIP FORM – CALENDAR YEAR 2021

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code _____ Phone No: _____

E-Mail: _____

Annual Membership Fee \$5

Fees used to promote activities and cover expenses.

- I would like to be an Active member and volunteer in the following area(s):**

(Must be 18 years of age or older)

- Executive Committee Role

- Net Shed Weekend Sales (please circle shifts below only IF you have a preference):

Fri 1-4 Sat 10-1 Sat 1-4 Sun 10-1 Sun 1-4 Holiday Mon 10-1 Mon 1-4

May June July August September October

I like to partner up and work shifts with: _____

- I would like to show my support for the Meaford Public Library and become an Associate Member (no volunteer hours).**

- I have reviewed and understand the Code of Conduct.**

Please return form and fee to Meaford Library or to Net Shed.