



Conceptual Drawing of Meaford’s New Public Library

Planning has begun to develop the site of the former Foodland building as the new Meaford Public Library. The fundraising campaign kicked off in earnest with a \$50,000 commitment by the Friends of the Meaford Library.

FOML President’s Message

I am pleased to be able to report on the activities of the Friends of the Meaford Library (FOML) at this particularly thrilling time for the Friends and the Meaford Public Library (MPL). As the MPL begins the construction of the new library at the former Foodland site, the FOML is pleased to be collaborating on the fundraising campaign for the new library.

Since the new Executive Committee took up its responsibilities following the Annual General Meeting in June, 2017, the members have been boosting their support of the MPL. This year the FOML was pleased to provide sponsorship of the MPL’s author series, bringing well known Canadian authors to our community. The FOML has recently acquired the ability to accept Visa, Mastercard and debit cards for transactions at the Net Shed and the Summer Concert series as well as allowing for easier donations to the FOML and the Fundraising campaign.

Also this year, the FOML has established a website:

<https://friendsofmeafordlibrary.ca> to inform interested individuals on the activities of the FOML as well as providing a location for people to donate to the new Meaford Public Library fundraising campaign. Please visit our website too and let us know what you think. The Executive Committee members are listed there too. You may also want to take advantage of volunteer opportunities with the Friends. Check us out!

Do you have any questions or suggestions for the FOML? Drop us a line at: friendsofmeafordlibrary@gmail.com

Greetings of the Season to all our Friends & Supporters and have a Happy New Year.

Peter Bantock, President

Among Friends Newsletter

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FRIENDS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Peter Bantock	President
Gillian Bigl	Past President
Leslie Ransom	Secretary
James Brown	Treasurer
Fred Kennedy	Promotion & Publicity
Jane Leckenby	Membership Coordinator
Paul Wehrle	Concert Coordinator
Chris Richardson	Volunteer Coordinator
Dinah Shields	Net Shed Book Coordinator
Elaine Burns	Member at Large

Friends of the Meaford Library



MEET YOUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



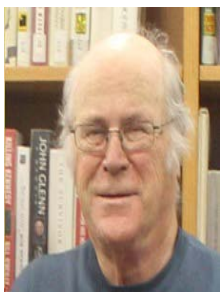
Kim Ransom serves as Secretary to the Executive. She records and distributes the minutes of meetings making sure to dot all the

“i”s and cross all the “t”s. When not volunteering with the Friends she is active with the Meaford Theatre Company and enjoys winter activities.



James Brown is responsible for the Friends' finances. He collects, deposits and accounts for all the monies. He reports regularly to the Friends executive on our fiscal position. Jim is an avid reader.

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Fred Kennedy is our Promotion & Publicity Coordinator. Besides flyers and brochures he produces the newsletter. His hobbies include collecting old tube radios and books on antique radios.

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Jane Leckenby has membership and recruitment duties for the Friends. Recruiting new members, keeping records and

assisting others are some of her talents. She noted that helping out at the Net Shed she found a book she had been searching for many years. Jane enjoys meeting people and helping them find that special book.



Paul Wehrle oversees our Summer Concert series. He organizes and manages the Sunday evening concerts at the Rotary Harbour

Pavilion and passes the hat or basket to collect donations from the music lovers assembled. He does a super job planning, booking talent and seeing that the show goes on.



Chris Richardson is our Volunteer Coordinator. She is particularly busy when the Net Shed is in operation making sure that volunteers are on hand to open, close and generally run the bookstore without any problems. The fundraising idea for Christmas ornaments was developed by Christine.

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Dinah Shields is our book lady. She ably handles the duties of Net Shed Book Coordinator. Dinah helps organize the shelves,

culls those books not suitable for sale and rids us of the flotsam and jetsam. Dinah appreciates the work of the desk volunteers at fielding local history books from amongst all the many donated books they go through. Good copies are often added to the library's local history collection.



Elaine Burns is our Member at Large. A consummate volunteer, Elaine is a loving grandmother. She is a regular reviewer for the Monday

Night Book Club column in the Meaford Independent. She is also a valuable member on the MPL Fundraising Committee. She is looking forward to an accessible library.



Peter Bantock has been President of the Friends of the Meaford Library since June 2017. Previously, he served a number

of years as Chair of the MPL Board (and has the scars to prove it). He is looking forward to the new library building. Peter is a keen cyclist and traveller.

Friends of the Meaford Library





The Friends of the Meaford Library sponsored an author event at the Meaford Hall Opera House. On Tuesday, November 14, author Dan Needles appeared with Ian Bell. After expenses the event raised a total of \$1,100.75 for the Friends in support of Meaford Public Library.

Author and playwright Dan Needles offered his observations on small town life and his experiences living in a rural environment. Ian Bell provided musical accompaniment singing humorous folk songs.

Jessica's Book Nook sold many copies of Dan Needles' latest book: *True Confessions from the Ninth Concession*. Dan Needles signed books and posed for photos with audience members after the presentation.



Net Shed Summer 2017

Located at the corner of Bayfield and Collingwood streets is a building over a century old once used to repair fishing nets. It has morphed into a popular venue for book lovers. Each summer hordes of bookworms descend on the weathered shed seeking books for themselves or family and friends.

Operated by the Friends of the Meaford Library since 1994 thanks to the generosity of the McKay family the Net Shed Bookstore has been a destination for local resident and visitor alike. Throughout the summer volunteers receive boxes of donated books which are judged Net Shed suitable (many don't make the cut) with good clean titles organized and shelved for the public. Because of space limitations we cannot accept magazines, old textbooks, computer books and books in poor condition.

Our Net Shed Book Coordinator and the Net Shed volunteers help keep book shelves properly arranged and easy for the public to navigate. Regular culling maintains our inventory fresh especially where best sellers are concerned.

Beginning on the Victoria Day weekend and open each weekend during the summer until Thanksgiving the "sale" of gently-read books by free will donation takes place at the Net Shed. A large and eclectic stock of fiction and non-fiction titles provides something for everyone's reading interest.

*Friends of the
Meaford Library*





The Municipality of Meaford is seeking dedicated persons to assist the Meaford Public Library Fundraising Committee. Please submit your application to help make our local library a welcoming place for our entire community; new, accessible and a valuable community resource.

An online application is available at: <https://meaford.ca/forms/clerk-s-division/committee-appointments/6206-fundraising-committee-application-form/file.html>

Contact: Matt Smith, Clerk
Municipality of Meaford
21 Trowbridge St. W.
Meaford, ON N4L 1A1
Fax: (519) 538-1556
Email: msmith@meaford.ca

From Fuller to Foodland®

The Municipality of Meaford and the Meaford Public Library Board have decided to create a larger, updated new library in the former Foodland building at the corner of Sykes and Trowbridge streets. In early 2018 plans for Meaford's new Library will start. After more than 50 years in its current location on Trowbridge Street, the Meaford Public Library will begin to build a new, accessible public building.

Since moving into the former Federal Post Office and Customs House designed by Chief Architect, Thomas W. Fuller and constructed in 1935, the Meaford Public Library has experienced continuous growth over the past decades.

Over the past fifty years, the collection has grown in size: books, CDs, DVDs, audio books demanding more space; and visits to the library have increased. Technology has also expanded with the library use of computers skyrocketing over the past decade. Attendance for adult and children's programming has increased demand dramatically on our public library system.

Our new library will be a modern, larger and accessible building all on one floor. For the first time the public library will have a garden and on-site parking. Stay tuned for more news as the project develops!



COMING EVENTS 2018

- May TBD Volunteer Orientation
- May 19-21 Victoria Day Weekend Net Shed Opens 10 to 4.
- May 26-27 Net Shed Open
- June Net Shed Open every Sat. & Sunday until Canada Day
- June TBD Friends AGM
- July Net Shed Open Canada Day & every Friday, Sat. & Sunday
- August Net Shed Open 3, 4, 5 & Civic Holiday on Monday 6th
- August Net Shed Openings Fridays, Saturday & Sunday
- August TBD Volunteer Appreciation
- September Net Shed Open
- Labour Day Weekend 1-3
- Sept. every Saturday & Sunday
- October Net Shed final Opening
- Thanksgiving weekend 6th to 8th.

Note: *Dates subject to change*

Sunday Evening Concerts

Rotary Harbour Pavilion,
Meaford, starting at 7 pm
Concert schedule 2018 TBA.



Exciting news for Net Shed customers this summer. We will have an Interac® terminal, it will take all credit cards and make it easy for book sales

and donations. Donations of \$20 or more will receive a tax receipt.



Q & A WITH PAST PRESIDENT GILLIAN BIGL

Gillian Bigl joined the Friends in 2004, serving as a member at large. She became Secretary later and then took a break for a couple of years. She returned as Secretary around 2009 and was elected President in 2013 and continued in that role until 2017. As outgoing President we posed a few questions about her experience with the Friends of the Meaford Library.

1. What was your motivation to serve on the Friends executive?

I became a member of the Friends of the Meaford Library when we were just visitors, hoping to one day move here! Reading, supporting our local library and volunteering are all important to me and once I was living and working here full-time, it was a privilege to join the executive team.

2. What achievement(s) stand out during your tenure?

Applying for and winning the national FOCAL (Friends of Canadian Libraries) Gabriele Schreiber award in 2014.

3. What was most rewarding serving as a volunteer on the executive?

Getting to know many wonderful people.

4. What challenges do you see for the Friends?

Staying autonomous. The Friends of the Meaford Library have always been an independent group of community volunteers not subject to any rules from the Municipality. The large fundraising campaign for the new library building may complicate matters.

5. Finally, how would you like your time with the FOML be remembered?

I would like to be remembered as a team player who was willing to help out where needed. I never intended to be President since I work full-time, but we needed a President in order to retain our charitable status. With others taking on Officer roles, we had a great team, working together and allowing our roles to interplay depending on our skills.