

Friends of Meaford Library



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

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

Among Friends Newsletter



Fall 2022



WE'RE BACK!

Another summer season of FOML activities, and it's a good time to take stock. We started the Sunday evening concerts again, and although two had to be cancelled due to rain and a lighting problem, the community was brought together to hear music—and FOML coffers were enriched. The Net Shed enjoyed a record-breaking season—both in terms of the number of folks enjoying the books and the donations they made. But the FOML season isn't over just because the Net Shed is closed: during Ontario Library Week, FOML will be offering anyone—young and old—who shows their library card a chance to win a prize. Prizes for youngsters include craft sets, books, etc.; gifts for teens include a Nintendo Switch game console, and a computer game. Most of the prizes are gift certificates to local businesses who have supported our library. Time to acknowledge their help by highlighting them. Gift certificates include McGinty's, Rice's Hardware, PomPom,

Simply Unique Flowers, The Kitchen, Grey Heron, Hill's Bikes, Chic Hair Salon, Pet Connection and Meaford Hall. Make sure to spread the word to your friends and come into the Library yourself between October 16-22 and try your luck! Also, the Library is thanking the Friends next week with a 'Thank You Party'. Come to the Library on Thursday, October 20th at 4 p.m.

We continue into December when during the 'Christmas on the BayTM' event, local businesses, the Meaford Library and Meaford Hall come together to start celebrations for Christmas; books from the Net Shed will be available to buy. Donations will be collected for the Meaford Food Bank.

As the FOML Board moves ahead for another year, thanks are owing to Jane Leckenby who served for a number of years on the FOML Board as Membership Coordinator. We all know Jane from her multiple community volunteering. She also, as Sue Johnston tells us below, took her membership job seriously

and never missed a chance to solicit volunteers for the Net Shed.

We welcome Karen Trusler as the new Membership Coordinator.

Looking forward to another great year ahead for the Friends.

Leslie Ransom, President, FOML.

Friends' Lunch at the Richardson's Place by the Water

Those who could attend, enjoyed a bbq served by the Richardson family: while they worked providing lunch for us, the rest of us sat around and got caught up. Many thanks to Chris, Robert and Francis for their hospitality.



Focus on our Volunteers

Our used-book store could look like this:



if it weren't for hard working volunteers who keep it organized and provide a fun space for buyers to search and browse.

The worker who puts in the most hours to ensure the Net Shed functions so well is Chris Richardson who, as a member of the FOML Board serves as Net Shed Coordinator; (she also volunteers at the Library and sits on the Library Board representing the Friends of Meaford Library). She, along with Rosemary Palmer (who coordinates the Net Shed workers) and a small group meet during the week to sort and cull donated books and shelve them in the right places. Here's what she said, when asked why she does so much:

"I joined the Friends after moving to Meaford 10 years ago. I have always loved to read and have been a regular visitor to the Library wherever we lived. Other members of my family were already

involved with the Friends so I signed up right away.

At various times I was asked to help out with orientation or other events so I gradually became more involved. I enjoy working with others in the group because we all love books and immediately have something to talk about.

This Library (and the Librarians) is the best and most community-oriented organization that I have seen and I love being a part of such a great group."

Here's another story from Sue Johnston of how a recently arrived Meafordite came to the Net Shed and why she loves it so much:



"When we first moved to Meaford three years ago we went to a community fish fry dinner. I was so fortunate to meet Jane Leckenby there who told me all about the Net Shed. I was thrilled to hear that I could volunteer at this great initiative.

I waited impatiently until Spring and happily signed up. I will continue to volunteer for so many reasons:

- ✓ The other Volunteers - always great chats and camaraderie during shifts;
- ✓ The people who come to the Net Shed are so appreciative of the facility so there is always a happy vibe there;
- ✓ The books are a never-ending source of pleasure and entertainment;
- ✓ The Net Shed is lovingly maintained by the volunteers and this makes it a pleasure to be in;
- ✓ The donation system is inclusive giving everyone access to books.

My best experience at the Net Shed has to be a man from Quebec who asked if we had any graphic novels. When we located one and showed it to him he was ecstatic! The novel was about a radio show producer, which was his occupation in Montreal.

Lovely symbiotic experiences like this are not unusual at the Net Shed."

Submitted by M-L Craven

How to Donate Books over the Winter

We don't want to miss out on receiving your discarded books when the Net Shed is closed.

Email Chris:

netshedcoordinator@gmail.com

and she will arrange to open the door of the Net Shed to hold the books till we open the May 24 weekend.

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