

September 30, 2020

Dear Mayor Guthrie

As a concerned citizen of Guelph, resident for over forty years, I want to let the mayor, my ward five representatives and the entire council and city planning department know that I am strongly in favour of a new library, as discussed, debated on and decided by a vote of city council.

One year ago City Council passed a motion for the desperately needed new library with a funding plan in place. There is absolutely no justification for debating the decision to build a new library further. In 2019 council voted 9 to 4 in favour of:

- Building a new library as part of the Baker St. development.
- Providing a budget of \$67.1 million.
- Designing for 88,000 square feet of space.

The issue at hand should only be to relocate the library within the Baker St. development as a stand-alone building. It must not be used as a strategy to either postpone or, at worst, shelve what has already been agreed upon as a need and a benefit for our city.

Past arguments have concluded that the current library is inadequate in all ways including space for holdings, technology, and accessibility. The building itself, now over fifty years old, is a liability with regards to accessibility and the existence of asbestos.

A new library is an economic benefit to our city. The actual cost to taxpayers has been estimated at current population figures to be less than fifteen dollars per year per household over a period of twenty years.

Sincerely

Marilyn Watson
Guelph, ON

Copied to:
Mayor Cam Guthrie/ mayor@guelph.ca
Ward 5 councilors
Virginia Gillham, Chair of Friends of the Guelph Public Library/ info@fgpl.ca