

October 1, 2020

To the Mayor and City of Guelph Councillors

I have been a citizen of Guelph for 35 years. I am a supporter of libraries and believe public libraries today are deeply involved with people, technology and quality of life and that Guelph is in need of a state-of-the-art main library within the downtown location. Public libraries have tremendous reach geographically and virtually. Nearly all libraries offer collections and programs which support early literacy, workforce readiness and small businesses.

As such, they are a cornerstone and dynamic part of the community infrastructure supporting local economic development. The return on investment in public libraries not only benefits individuals, but also strengthens community capacity to address urgent issues related to economic development. Public libraries are dynamic, socially responsive institutions and a lifeline for the most vulnerable amongst us.

It's important for policymakers and government officials to provide leadership and incorporate libraries into budgets.

From all accounts Guelph's main library has seen its best days and I strongly encourage you to vote in favour of the proposed \$64 million new GPS project.

Thank you for your efforts and considerations on behalf of the best interest of the citizens of Guelph now and into the future.

Deb Thompson
Resident of Ward 5