Guelph Mercury

Who to call

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Breaking news

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Administration

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Getting it right



Our accuracy

pledge Nothing is more important to us than accuracy. We always strive to

ensure the information we provide is factual and correct. But sometimes we make mistakes, and when we do, we will correct them promptly and prominently. If you see a factual error, please contact the newsroom at 519-823-6060 or by email at editor@guelphmercury.com.

Lottery results

Yesterday's unofficial winning numbers: Pick 3:008

Pick 4:7209

Keno: 1, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 13, 15, 34, 35, 40, 42, 43, 48, 51, 53, 54, 59, 68, 69 **Encore:** 4477303

Poker: A-H, J-D, 7-H, 4-D, 2-D 6/49: 7, 13, 18, 21, 23 & 24 Bonus: 48 Ontario 49: 3, 16, 17, 19, 21, 29 Bonus: 41

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The public library is there when you need it

hen undergoing surgery or some particularly gruelling dental procedure, we are reminded to think of our 'happy place.'

Besides the obvious family holidays, and beaches, my happy place is the public library. When I am feeling a bit blue, or just not on top of things, I head for the library.

When my children were little, we visited at least once a week to stock up on books and take part in the children's activities. There's something about the smell of the library, offering warmth, comfort, and security. Why wouldn't a person use it? It offers access to books, movies, reference materials, newspapers and magazines for nothing.

The library is so important to me that I am amazed at the number of people I talk to that say they can't remember the last time they read a book

To the contrary, I keep a list of books I read every year to track favourite authors, and I compete with myself, trying to top the number I read last year (44, in case you were wondering). Nearly every week, I pile up novels, cookbooks, decorating books, how-to books, magazines, and community handouts. My only complaint is that there aren't grocery carts available to carry the enormous pile of books I want to take out.

Last year, en route to a dinner out with a friend, I mentioned that I needed to pop into



MELODY WREN community

the library, since a book I had requested was in. "Oh, I would like to see what the library is like" she replied.

Stopping dead in my tracks, and trying to remain polite, I asked her how long she had lived in Guelph, and why she had never been to the library, and how else does she access books, movies, workshops.

Once I stopped badgering her, I gave her a tour of the library, insisting that she immediately apply for membership. She was shocked that it was all free.

I had to bite my tongue from replying 'hence the PUBLIC part."

Recently, I was dropping off a few items to the return chute knowing the library was closed. A woman was puttering about outside and asked if she could return the books for me.

"Sure" I stammered, wondering if she was going to take them, leaving me with a huge

As she entered the library with my returns,

she turned and asked me if I wanted to come

"It's not open for 45 minutes, I'll come back" I said, wondering what she was up to.

"We are so happy that you're here, please come in." If she had offered me tea and biscuits I couldn't have been more surprised.

"Are you sure about this," I said, thinking I would get into trouble sneaking in the library before opening time. As I checked out my books, after enjoying having my happy place to myself, I told the library assistant "a very nice woman let me come in early," bobbing my head in the general direction so she could see who I was talking about.

"That's our new chief librarian," she said. Ah ha! Mystery solved. The woman in question, Kitty Pope, had only been there six weeks, and her positive energy and presence is very noticeable. You might want to check out her blog, appropriately named: kittysonapositivenote.wordpress.com

Have a look at the public library decorated with new warm colours, reading chairs in the "living room," lamps, and a more spacious feeling when you enter.

They will be glad you're there. Like good friends, the library is always there when you

Melody Wren is a member of the Guelph Mercury community editorial board.





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H: -11

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SUNDAY

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MONDAY

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