

CULTURAL MOMENT

THE MOUNT FOREST CARNEGIE LIBRARY CELEBRATES 100 YEARS!

Early 1900's capture of Mount Forest Carnegie Library Wellington County Museum & Archives Photo 8033

In April 1909, the Mount Forest Library was fortunate to receive a \$10,000 grant to build from Philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, who was making substantial donations towards building public libraries around the world; the branch officially opened in December 1913.

In total, Canada received \$2,556,600 for public library construction. Of the 125 Carnegie libraries built in Canada, 111 were located in Ontario. Wellington County Library is fortunate to have five Carnegie library branches within the system.

The Mount Forest Library was designed by Architect, George Gray and was 4259 square feet in size. The branch saw \$1,620,000 worth of renovations in 2009 with Architect L. Alan Grinham adding an additional 7328 square feet to the original building.

On Thursday, December 5, 2013, the Mount Forest Carnegie Library will officially turn 100. To celebrate this occasion, the library will be hosting an Anniversary Open House on December 5 from 2 – 5 pm. At the open house, there will be a chance to browse through old photographs and memorabilia from the library over the past 100 years. A few selections from the community writing expo taking place from September to November will also be read and displayed. The writing expo is centered on the community's "fondest memories of the Mount Forest Library". Refreshments, cake and Wellington North's world famous butter tarts will be served as well. It will be a great afternoon for staff and the community to celebrate 100 years of the Carnegie Legacy in Mount Forest and look forward to many more.

"A library outranks any one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in the desert." Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919)