



REPORT TO THE LIBRARY BOARD

MEETING DATE: MARCH 19, 2008

Session:	Public Session
Subject:	Friends of the London Public Library Donation
Prepared By:	Margaret Mitchell
Presented By:	Anne Becker
Purpose of Report:	For Approval

Recommendation

It is recommended that the donation of \$80,000 from the Friends of the London Public Library be allocated as outlined in Appendix 1 of this report.

BACKGROUND

Each year, the Friends of the London Public Library donates funds from the book sale and other revenue generating initiatives to support non-core service enhancements and other items that are not addressed in the Library's operating budget.

PROPOSED ALLOCATIONS

The recommended allocations, as outlined in Appendix 1 of this report, were presented to the March meeting of the Friends' Executive. The Friends of the London Public Library have generously responded to the Library's request. The Library is grateful for this support for ongoing programs as well as new initiatives, such as the Newcomers' Strategy and the Writer in Residence, which will move us forward in the achievement of our strategic plan.

APPENDIX 1

Friends of the London Public Library Recommended Allocation of Donation	
Item	Funding Allocation
<p>READ Program Expansion The READ program currently operates in three locations, providing one on one reading help through volunteers for children, aged seven and up. The need is very great for READ programs in Pond Mills and Beacock. The Friends' donation will fund a part-time facilitator to support this expansion.</p>	\$30,000
<p>Rotary Reading Garden Support The previous year's donation enabled the Library to contract professional landscape maintenance services for the Reading Garden and other branch locations. The Friends' donation will again cover this cost as well as some plant replacement and the installation outdoor chess tables, which have been enormously popular inside the Library.</p>	\$12,000
<p>Summer Reading Program (SRP) The 2007 donation enabled the library to purchase collections, prizes, etc. to support the SRP which serves over 5,000 children. The Friends' donation, along with other sponsors, will be acknowledged in publicity.</p>	\$5,000
<p>Writer in Residence In 2007, the Library engaged writer in residence, Edeet Ravel, during Ontario Public Library Week. This initiative was very successful and the Library is working to acquire a writer-in- residence for a longer period of time. The writer would provide public workshops and readings, and also meet one on one with aspiring writers to assist in their development. The Friends' donation will provide matching funds for government funding application.</p>	\$4,000
<p>Summer Interns Each year the Library applies for government funding to hire summer interns to assist with the Summer Reading Program, Summer READ, Teen Extreme Reading Machine and other literacy programs for hundreds of children during the summer months. The Friends' donation will provide matching funds for this initiative.</p>	\$14,000
<p>Assistive Technology Assistive technology software and hardware has primarily been located in the Central Library. There is a need to expand these services into other branch locations. The Friends' donation will fund the purchase of Rosetta Stone software for English as a Second Language support as well as language learning support in other languages.</p>	\$7,500
<p>Collections The Friends' donation will assist in the updating of the collections through the purchase of new English as a Second Language materials and non-English language DVD's.</p>	\$7,500
	\$80,000

Friends of the London Public Library Donation Proposed Allocations	
Item	Funding Request
<p>Masonville Branch Library Refresh Masonville Branch Library is undergoing a refresh, after 12 years of intensive use. General capital improvements are being made, such as painting, carpeting. Sources of funding include capital budget, Lasting Treasure, and local fundraising initiatives. Masonville is one our busiest branches, serving over 215,000 customers in 2007. The refresh includes service innovations: Discover Place, Teen Annex, better access to collections through innovative, self-checkout.</p> <p>The Friends' donation will contribute to upgraded display furniture and refurbishment of reading area furniture for adults and children.</p>	20,000
<p>Newcomers Project As part of LPL's 2005-2008 Strategic Plan, the library developed a customer-focussed Newcomer Service Model and Action Plan that will meet the needs of London's new immigrants and refugees. This model builds on the Library's past successes. In the coming year, we will be actively participating in two joint service initiatives provided in partnership by all levels of government and key community agencies. These initiatives support newcomers in their arrival to Canada/London, settlement and adaptation by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assisting with information and referral to specific community services (housing, medical/health, schools, etc.); • language, literacy and translation support; career and job search guidance; • learning opportunities; and culture, leisure and recreation. <p>The Friends' donation will fund the purchase of collections, staff training, and furniture/equipment.</p>	20,000
<p>R.E.A.D. The READ program, operating in Jalna, Sherwood and Crouch, provides one on one reading help through volunteers for children ages seven and up. The service is being operationalized through the establishment of a Coordinator, READ program position and the collections and support materials are being assessed and updated.</p> <p>The Friends' donation will be used to purchase new collections and kits for use by the students in the program</p>	5,000
<p>Improving the Independent User Experience The Library wants to enable its customers to be as independent as possible in managing their library experience. Research has shown that library customers do not like to ask for help and feel more comfortable if they can operate as independently as possible in the Library. To enable this, LPL will be introducing a new directional signage solution in this fall. The solution is designed to be intuitive and self-revealing which will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maximize browse-ability • maintain visibility of Dewey Decimal System maintain a simple and consistent look and feel across the system • be flexible to accommodate the unique layouts of branches • use cost-effective materials <p>The Friends' donation will enable us to complete the project within the next 12 months.</p>	5,000
Total	\$50,000