Friends Donate $96,100 to the Library
- Margaret Mitchell

The Friends of the London Public Library presented a cheque for $96,100 to Josh Morgan, Chair of the Library Board, at its meeting Feb 23. Josh was most pleased to receive the donation, saying “The work that the Friends do to support the Library is tremendous. These funds will go a long way to support value-added literacy programs and Library services for all Londoners which we cannot fund through the regular operating dollars. We are most grateful.”

The funds originate from revenue generated at the Annual Book Sale, the Library Store (at Central) and other initiatives undertaken by countless volunteers throughout the year.

Several special projects will be funded through this donation. Children’s and teens’ reading and literacy programs will be held in most branch locations this summer. The one-on-one reading support program, R.E.A.D. (Reading for Enjoyment and Development), will operate in several branches to help struggling young readers gain reading skills and confidence. A new Homework Club at the Crouch Branch was very successful last year and will continue this year thanks to the partnership of the Friends, the Library and Frontier College. The Visiting Library Service DVD collection, serving seniors and others who cannot get to a Library branch, will have a one-time boost to ensure that popular DVDs in areas of interest such as Travel and Biography will be available. A new project has been funded to assist newcomers to Canada who are making London their home, in accessing Library information; software will be purchased to develop Library welcome brochures and website design in 12 languages. The continuing digitization project of the London Room’s collection of unique historical London photographs enables people from around the world to view our history. Thanks to the contribution of the Friends, new photos will be added to the website’s Image Gallery Project.

Without the support of the Friends, the Library could not offer these and other value-added services. At the presentation on Feb 23, Library Board members extended a heartfelt “Thank you” to the members of the Friends’ Executive and to the many volunteers who work with such passion to serve the community.

Scott Curoe
Deb Lowry
Josh Morgan
Ann Henderson
Carmen Sprovieri

How to contact Friends
Email - friends@lpl.london.on.ca.
Leave a message at 519-661-2448.
Regular mail - Friends of LPL, 251 Dundas St, London, ON, N6A 6H9.
More details on our website:
www.londonpubliclibrary.ca/friendsofthelibrary
Volunteer Appreciation - Deb Lowry

In keeping with the United Nations designated International Volunteer Day, Friends hosted a reception for the sorting, warehouse, and Library Store volunteers on Dec 2. Susanna Hubbard Krimmer, CEO of LPL, brought greetings and expressed thanks for their many hours of dedicated work throughout the year. Deb Lowry, President of Friends, presented a small gift to each of the volunteers as a token of appreciation. Funds raised by their efforts have contributed to many enhancements to Library programs and collections. Deb also noted that the Friends of the Library would not be as successful today without two things; first, a dedicated and committed group of volunteers and second, the support and open two-way communications with Library Administration. At the reception, the support of library personnel, Betty Lueddeke, Jan White, Ellen Hobin and Susanna Hubbard Krimmer, was also acknowledged.

As part of a Game Show, “Let’s Donate Another Million”, Margaret Mitchell and Susanna happily accepted the “Million Dollars” from Lois Patterson, a store volunteer and contestant in the evening’s entertainment. Refreshments and an enjoyable social time followed.

Left to right, front row: Susanna Hubbard Krimmer, Ellen Hobin, Maureen McKeown, Wilda Mardlin, Scott Curoe, Corinne Wright, Gloria Thomson.
Middle row: Lois Patterson, Betty Stephenson, Tammy Kuo, Madonna Lambe, Mary McLean, Annelies O’Brien, Cathy Holland, Joan Lang, Agota Tenk, Mary Dooley, Karen Payne, Phyllis Simmons, Deb Lowry, JackieLooper.

Library Store Promotions - Scott Curoe

Each month, the Library Store special promotions are advertised on the Store bulletin board and throughout the Store. The specific themes are dependant on receipt of sufficient quantities of suitable donated material. During the April through June period, look for these specials: Religion and Personal Wellness, Magazines 3 for $1, Gardening and Cookbooks, Children’s Books 3 for $2, and our “Rainy Day at the Cottage” sale featuring crafts and puzzles.
Among Friends  

Building on Success - Don Menard  

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you can read about how the Friends have been able to support and enhance Library programs with the money raised over the past year. Our ability to do so is related directly to the degree that members of the Friends and the public support the Book Store and the annual Library Sale. Much support is provided through your donations of good quality books for adults, young adults and children, videos (both VHS and DVD), CDs, vinyl records and magazines.

Please consider us as you cull your various collections or as you downsize. Mention us to your friends or neighbours who are doing the same. Please, though, be aware that we are looking for saleable items which don’t include older reference materials, stained or damaged materials, etc.

If you have materials to donate, you can bring small quantities directly to the Library Store at the Central Branch or to your nearest library branch in bags or boxes marked “For the Friends.” For larger quantities, please contact the Friends by phone (519-661-2448) and leave a message or e-mail us at friends@lpl.london.on.ca. One of our volunteers will be happy to contact you to make arrangements to pick up your materials. Your donations will allow us to continue to support the London Public Library system. We thank you for past donations and look forward to your continued support in the future.

A Book For Every Child® - Gail Turpin  

The 2011 A Book For Every Child® campaign was a great success with over 6,300 London girls and boys receiving new books. London agencies were able to fill all their requests.

Many people worked behind the scenes to ensure success. Generous London donors, bookstore staff, London Public Library staff and Friends of the London Public Library all contributed and deserve a huge thank you.

Friends volunteers delivered campaign information to participating bookstores, collected donated books and delivered them to library branches. Thanks, in particular, to Hilary Bates-Neary, Ken Keiffer, Karen and Ron Payne, Connie Sullivan, Gail Turpin, Linda and Bob Wakefield and Madelon West for their work. Library staff sorted books into age groups, purchased books as necessary and filled requests from London agencies. Chapters North and South, Coles Books, Mastermind Toys and Books, Oxford Book Shop, Scholar’s Choice and The Bookstore at Western offered a 20% discount off the price of books purchased for A Book For Every Child®. The Londoner provided media support. The Library Store donated the proceeds from two days sales. Below, Gail Turpin accepts a cheque from Yuriy Tyschuk (left) and Mary Blasl and Scott Curoe, Store Co-Managers.

A Book For Every Child® provides books for London children throughout the year and new books can be donated at any time. A book club event or a birthday party could be honoured by donating books to A Book For Every Child®. Celebrate spring by sharing your love of reading with a child.

www.londonpubliclibrary.ca/friendsofthelibrary
Thanks for Being a Friend - Deb Lowry

Anne Rasmussen - Our thanks to Anne Rasmussen who, for the past few years, has taken on the essential task of the Membership Chair. With over 225 active Friends as members, you can imagine the time and effort involved in maintaining all of the records. Anne has decided to step away from the position to spend more time with her grandchildren.

Moe McKeown - Vice-President Moe McKeown will assume the membership duties on an interim basis.

On behalf of the Executive, thank you Anne; all your work has contributed to the overall success of the Friends. And, thanks also to Moe for stepping up to help.

Friend of the Year, Call for nominations - Connie Sullivan

Do you know someone who deserves to be Friend of the Year? If so, please submit the name and address of your nominee(s) with a short letter explaining why you believe that person/group, should be honoured. Three people are required to support a nomination. Please include the names, signatures and addresses of the three nominators. Mail your submission, no later than Sept. 30, 2012, to President, Friends of the London Public Library, 251 Dundas St, London, ON N6A 6H9.

Library Store, Friday Friends - Scott Curoe

In January, the Library Store introduced the “Friday Friends” promotion as a way to recognize members of the Friends and the valuable support they provide to the Library. Members receive a 20% discount on Store purchases every Friday upon showing Friends membership card.

Store Hours

until June 23

- Monday-Thursday 10 am-6 pm
- Friday 10 am-5 pm
- Saturday 10 am-4 pm
- Sunday Closed

starting June 25

- Monday - Friday 11 am - 5 pm
- Saturday & Sunday Closed

Editor’s note: You can access web pages directly from the electronic newsletter by clicking on a website address. For example, clicking on www.londonpubliclibrary.ca/friendsofthelibrary at the bottom of each page will take you to the Friends web page.

Newsletter by email

The Among Friends newsletter is sent to members 3 times per year. Since it is produced in electronic format, it’s easy to distribute it electronically as well. For those members who would like to receive the newsletter by email, and have not already indicated so, please contact us at 519-661-2448 or at friends@lpl.london.on.ca.