Friends Donate $25,000 to the Library
- Margaret Mitchell

At the Library Board meeting Sept 20, members of the Friends’ Executive presented the Board with a cheque for $25,000 to support the enhancement of library services and programs. “We greatly respect and appreciate the work of the Friends, who volunteer tirelessly throughout the year to enable the library to offer great services to our community,” remarked Josh Morgan, Chair, London Public Library Board.

With the financial support of the Friends, several services and programs for children will be enhanced. The Library plans to produce large laminated mazes, word searches and “connect the dot” puzzles as an innovative way to encourage literacy skills development for children, teens and adults. The children’s book collection will be enhanced with the purchase of dual language picture books to support children learning to read in families where the language at home is not English. As well, the purchase of French language materials will support the early literacy skills for children whose first language is French.

With this latest donation, the Library will be purchasing Books on CD for Visiting Library Patrons. For many VLS patrons, listening to books on CD is their only option to read. This donation will also enhance the number of titles available in the very popular Book Club in a Bag program. Also, Computer Classes for Seniors, sponsored by the Friends, will be offered in several locations in the coming months.

We, as Friends, are pleased to be able to help the Library provide value-added services and new programs. This year, we have donated over $121,100 to support non-core service enhancements. The Library is committed to maintaining high quality library services in the face of significant budgetary pressure. Our latest donation of $25,000 will continue to balance the principle of the Friends’ funding non-core service enhancements with the need for support of library services and strategic initiatives.

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
Join us at the Book Sale - Don Menard

Circle Oct 19 - 21 as the 2012 edition of the Friends of the London Public Library Book Sale returns to the Special Events Building at Western Fair. Thanks to the donations from many people, we have lots of items to supplement materials the Library provides as it makes space for new items. Want to fill the gaps in your mystery collection? Need information on landscaping? Searching for new recipes? Looking for easy read books to whet your children’s interest in reading? Expanding your musical interests? The sale will have all this, and more, at prices that will be hard to match.

The sale opens on Friday, Oct. 19 at 9:00 AM and closes Sunday at 4:00 PM. There is ample free parking so plan to attend.

And, if you need to clear a few shelves to accommodate your new purchases, remember to donate those items to the Friends for next year’s sale.

Would you like to volunteer at the Book Sale? - Gayle Remisch

One constant in the Book Sale is the need for a lot of volunteers to make the event a success.

We need volunteers to set up tables and stock the various sections with books. We need others to keep the book tables tidy and to assist customers. Some volunteers work the cash registers and others greet and orientate their fellow volunteers as they arrive at the sale. And, we need volunteers to pack and load up any unsold books after the sale.

And volunteers, only volunteers, can enjoy a “first browse” of all titles during a special preview sale the evening of Thurs, Oct 18.

If you’d like to volunteer, please contact Gayle at 519-858-9781 or info@learnfree.ca.

See you there!
Among Friends

Annual General Meeting – Deb Lowry

The AGM was held on Tuesday Sept 18, 2012 at the Central Library with approximately 30 people in attendance.

The President highlighted the challenges and accomplishments of the year. Challenges included the high turn-over of volunteers in executive positions with the most difficult one being the untimely passing of Peter Geigen-Miller, our Secretary. We have now filled all the positions. We had another very successful Book Sale in 2011 with net revenues of $35,000. The Library Store continues to thrive, with an average of $7000 in monthly sales. Our membership numbers are steady and have been boosted by the Friday Friends initiative and complimentary memberships. We are proud to report that the Book For Every Child Program® is in its 20th year and the program is a finalist in the Innovation category of the Pillar nonprofit network; the winners will be announced in November. We are preparing for the 2012 Book Sale and we are now using social media.

In total, this year, the Friends donated $121,100 to the London Public Library Board. One of the many programs that received benefit from our donation was Jazz for the People. Through our Speaking with Friends initiative, we are proud that they gave us a sample of their work following the AGM.

We continue to appreciate the open lines of communication between the Friends and Library administration and staff. My thanks go out to the Executive and to our volunteers for turning challenges into opportunities, resulting in yet another very successful year.

The following officers were elected to the Executive for 2012 - 2013: President: Deb Lowry, Vice-President: Maureen McKeown, Secretary: Len Carey, Treasurer: Yuriy Tyschuk

Jazz for the People and Friends - Connie Sullivan

Friends and other jazz lovers of all ages enjoyed a special concert in the Wolf Performance Hall following the Friends AGM. The concert featured the Sandy MacKay Trio and was in celebration of the Friends’ financial support of the Jazz for the People concert series.

The Sandy MacKay Trio with John Noubarian on piano, Sandy on drums and Darryl Stacey on bass treated the crowd to a solid hour of a variety of jazz pieces, including The Nearness of You, Ode to Billy Joe, and, as the finale, and appropriate to the season, Autumn Leaves.

Mark your calendars for the next free Jazz for the People concerts on Oct 24, Nov 28, and Dec 12.

Rotary Reading Garden - Connie Sullivan

Before the Jazz for the People concert, Gloria Leckie, Vice-Chair of the LPL Board presented Deb Lowry, President of Friends, a plaque to be placed in the Rotary Reading Garden, acknowledging Friends’ support for the care and maintenance of the garden since its inception in 2003.
Friend of the Year – Deb Lowry

At the Annual General Meeting Sept 18, 2012, Don Menard received the Friend of the Year Award for 2012. He is shown below with his wife, Fran, and his grandson, Damien.

Don has been the man behind the annual Book Sale for the past 9 years. As Book Sale Coordinator, Don is responsible for the overall event including the coordination of close to 200 volunteers. In addition, Don provides general direction to the collection of materials and sorting at the warehouse and at the Central Library sorting room, throughout the year.

In 2011, Don oversaw the renovation and reorganization of the Byron warehouse. This year, he has managed the warehousing operations almost singlehandedly. He gives generously of his time at the renovated warehouse, putting the thousands of books and boxes into storage in the orderly manner required for efficient loading and shipping to the annual sale at Western Fair. He is often seen during lunch checking the books in the sorting room and on Wednesdays discussing the inventory of saleable material and promotions with the co-manager of the Library Store.

The annual Book Sale would not be the success it has become; indeed it might not even be a continuing event without Don’s leadership during the past several years. Congratulations, Don; you are undeniably the Friend of the Year.

A Book For Every Child® - Gail Turpin

The days are getting shorter and the girls and boys have returned to busy classrooms. A change of season is in the air and we’re getting ready for A Book For Every Child® to begin. Last year was our twentieth anniversary and we received over $11,000 in financial donations and gave new books to over 6300 London children. In the twenty years of A Book For Every Child®, more than 142,000 books have been distributed.

The 2012 campaign will begin Nov 10 and end Dec 22. Local bookstores will offer a 20% discount on books purchased for A Book For Every Child® and financial donations can be made at your local library branch.

Owning a book of your own is special. Being able to give a child the gift of a new book is also special. Please encourage a new generation of readers by contributing to A Book For Every Child®.

Speaking with Friends – Connie Sullivan

Friends is pleased to have award-winning Emma Donoghue read from her new book “Astray “, a collection of fictional tales based on true stories of the emigrant experience spanning several centuries and countries. Emma Donoghue’s novel “Room” won a $25,000 Rogers Writers’ Trust Prize and was a finalist for the Man Booker Prize and Governor General’s Literary Award.

Emma Donoghue will be Speaking with Friends on Thursday, Nov 1 at 7 PM in the Wolf Performance Hall, Central Library. Donations at the door will support the Book for Every Child® 2012 campaign.

A book signing and reception will follow in the Stevenson Hunt Room.
Remembering a Friend - Deb Lowry

Peter Geigen-Miller, a Library Store volunteer and Secretary for Friends of the LPL, passed away in May, 2012. Peter was a highly respected journalist for 44 years, having worked at the Windsor Star and the London Free Press. His colleagues remember him as “a compassionate guy with a bent for social equity and a love for the environment.” Loyalty was the hallmark of his life; he was devoted to his wife Shirley and their family. After retiring from the London Free Press, Peter joined the Friends and the Library Store as a volunteer in 2008.

His passing was difficult not only on the Executive of Friends and the Store volunteers but also on the many faithful customers he served. He was cheerful, dedicated and committed and he will always be remembered. While we know that he enjoyed working at the Store and being a Friend, we also know that he made a big difference to all those with whom he interacted.

Thanks for being a Friend - Deb Lowry

The Friends Executive extend their thanks and gratitude to Sandra Whitehall, Karin Palmer and Karen Payne.

Sandra and Karin were our Book Sale Volunteer Coordinators for three years. Without their skills and attention to organizational details, the Book Sale would not have run as smoothly as it did, nor been as successful. It is quite a feat to plan, schedule and direct a staff of over 200 volunteers. But they did it, and they did it very well.

Karen was our Reception Coordinator for many years, and recipient of the 2011 Friend of the Year Award. She frequently brought family and friends along as she hosted Friends events, such as as the Book Camp and the Volunteer Appreciation receptions. Her commitment to the Friends is legendary; she was instrumental in the development of the Masonville Branch of the London Public Library.

All three have left their mark with the Friends. We wish you all the best and thank you for being our Friend.

Facebook and Twitter - Deb Lowry

The Friends of the London Public Library are venturing into social media. Learn more about Friends, memberships, the Book Sale and the Library Store.

Like us on facebook at Friends of the London Public Library and follow us Twitter@LPL_Friends.

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.
New Executive Members - Len Carey

Lynda Kirkham - Membership
Born in Toronto, Lynda spent her formative years in Montreal and Lennoxville where she graduated from Bishop’s University in English Literature. She moved to London from Ottawa almost 30 years ago. Lynda retired from LPL as the Communications Officer in 2010. Lynda’s son and his wife, daughter and her husband, and three grandchildren also live in London. Lynda is a passionate reader and believes “London Public is the best library ever, anywhere!” She is delighted to be associated with the Library again via Friends and continuing to support the important part LPL plays in our community.

Lois Patterson - Receptions
Lois was born in England where she got her schooling before moving to Saskatoon in 1970. She came to London in 1973 to open the new White Oaks Mall. She retired in 2005 as Assistant Manager of the mall and continues to work in financial services on a part-time basis. Lois and her husband, Gary, enjoy travelling and the theatre. Lois volunteered with the Library’s READ program and has been a Friends volunteer in the Library Store since 2005, shortly after it opened. Lois believes that we should all give back to society and really enjoys the people she’s met in the Store.

Gayle Remisch - Book Sale Volunteer Coordinator
Gayle was born in England, moving shortly after to Brazil and Montreal, back to England to finish her schooling, returning to Montreal, then St. Catherines and coming to London in 1988 (whew!). Gayle is currently a private school principal and acts as a guest lecturer in child psychology and alternative education at UWO. Gayle has always had a passion for books and has an extensive library. She has been volunteering with the Book Sale since 2007, being a regular customer for years before; her two daughters also volunteer at the sale. She’s looking forward to continuing her passion for books as the Book Sale Volunteer Coordinator.

Ann Henderson - Book Sale Volunteer Cashier Coordinator
Ann is originally from England, coming to Canada in 1968. Since then, she has lived in Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Talbotville, and in London since 2002. Ann enjoys gardening and music, belonging to several choir groups and volunteers for Orchestra London and Nature London. Ann and her husband, Ted, enjoy travelling the world, especially to their daughter’s in Mississauga. Ann has been volunteering in various book sale cashier roles since 2000 and looks forward to continuing those relationships as the Book Sale Cashier Coordinator.