Thank you so much. This year’s Friends of the London Public Library Book Sale at the Western Fair Special Events Building was another great success due in large part to the participation of so many wonderful volunteers. The sale generated sales of approximately $42000, about $1000 more than last year. Proceeds will be used to enhance Library programs that Londoners enjoy each and every day. From hands-on computer courses and English language mentors to children’s literacy programs and digitizing archival photographs in the London Room, your public library, and its Friends, are dedicated to improving the quality of life for all.

Whether working behind the scenes to help sort and store donations or assisting the buying public to find a title by a favourite author, the work done by our many volunteers is absolutely essential. We are grateful for the dedication of those who return year after year and happy to see so many new faces who we hope will become “regulars” in the years to come. It was a total team effort that produced such rewarding results. The year-long sorting carried out by Mary and Shirley Maclean, Madonna Lambe, and Gerry Chambers organized a large quantity of materials. Jim Lambe orchestrated the warehousing and transportation of the materials to the Fair with help from our sponsoring companies, Yale Industrial Trucks and the Ontario Truck Driving School. This year, because of ongoing renovations to our warehouse, Facilities staff at the Library assisted in arranging for storage of materials prior to shipment to the Fair. At the sale itself, another 40 volunteers set out the sale materials Thursday morning in record time, overcoming the extra work created by having so many mixed pallets.

Throughout the weekend, others helped in a myriad of ways by, for example, ensuring that shelves were restocked and kept orderly and helping customers find a specific type of book or magazine. At sale’s end, an extra complement of supporters made quick work of tidying up what was unsold. Thanks to Gail Raemisch for her efforts in removing unsold children’s materials for reuse elsewhere. Many members of the Friends' Executive and Library administration also made important contributions.

It is worth repeating, from year to year, that the success of the sale is very dependent on donated materials. These add interest to the traditional materials that become surplus from the Library. Please keep this in mind when you are looking to reorganize your bookshelves. If you have donations of books, magazines, cds, dvds, even vinyl records, please take them to any library branch in bags or boxes marked “for the book sale.”

Again, thank you! Thank you so much to each and every person for giving of your time and talents to make the Friends Book Sale a resounding success, again!

See you in 2012!

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
A BIG Thanks to All Our Volunteers

Fraser Ailles  Alex Kieffer  Linda McKay
Katarina Albrechtas  Ken Kieffer  Shirley and Mary McLean
James Balasch  Lucy Kieffer  Henry Morgan
Hailey Bartman  Andrea Kiss  Shelia Morgan
Mardelle Bishop  Bill Knowles  Michelle Mylemans
Maria Camacho  Jean Knowles  Ola Nowosad
Gerry Chambers  Daniel Kong  Julianne O’Gorman
Ray Clancy  Claudia L  Suzanne O’Neill

David Cox  Karen Learn  Allyson Steward
Shirley McCallan  Gloria Leckie  Chelsea & Tracy Stirling
Jim Daunt  Sandy Lodish  Helen Tangelder
Shawna Ducker  Deb Lowry  K-Lynne Tangredi
Daniel & Iwona Efczynski  Willa Mardlin  Terry & Keith Temple
Amanda Fediw  Linda McClure  Vivian Toth
Teresa Fediw  Christina & James McDonald  Caitlin Traviss
Sharon Fenwick  Micheline McDougal  Ahmri Vandeborne
Steven Fenwick  Nuccia McGrath
Ann Fitchett
Ela Gach
Claudia Gicala
Randy Gilmore
Ann Hamilton
Beverly Harley
Doug Harris
Kim Harris
Maggie Harsanyi
Jaylee Hartung
Jocelyn Ho
Wincy Ho
Willow Holmes
Jim Hull
Geoffrey Hume
International Academy students
Fred Isreals

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Volunteers (continued)
Mary Beth & Taryn Vanderaar-Reid
Linda & Bill Wakefield
Ann Wearing
Bernice Williams
Mary Willick
Annette Young
Andrea Zagar
Fred Zamostny
Michael Zandri
Homer Zhang

Cashiers
Mary Blasl
Inez & Sig Boehme
Len Carey
Beth Crowder
Scott Curoe
Norm & Caroline Davis
Lois & Jillian Denomme
Jim Etherington

Leslie Graham
Bev & Michele Harris
Ann & Ted Henderson
Maureen Hyatt
Jean & Bill Knowles
Bob Kymlicka
Mitch Lenko
Jackie & Jenne Looper
Sean Lynch
Rose Marie

Peggy Matser
Gail McDonald
Margaret Mitchell
Viola Poletes Montgomery
Arthur Naregatsian
Lara Naregatsian
Mike Gregory
Hilary Neary
Helen Pathy
Anne Rasmussen
June Smith
Carmen Sprovieri
Connie Sullivan
Grace Tate
Agota Tenke
Audrey & Auke Van Holst
Linda Wakefield
Ann White
Madelon West
The Annual General meeting was held October 3, 2011 at the Central Library with approximately 30 in attendance.

The President highlighted events of the past year (Oct, 2010 - Sept, 2011), thanking the many volunteers for their support and enthusiastic commitment to the numerous projects undertaken during the year. These included the always popular Book Sale in October, the Library Store in its 6th year of operation, the Book for Every Child® campaign with more than 6000 London children receiving new books, the Speaking with Friends 2010 event featuring award-winning author Peter Robinson, and the many receptions hosted by Friends.

This year, over $110,000 was presented to the London Public Library Board for enhanced services such as Literacy programs and Homework Help for children and a special one-time project to support Visiting Library Services.

As the municipal election was held Oct, 2010, Friends took advantage of the opportunity to inform candidates of the importance of the London Public Library to our community. An information package was sent to all candidates and a Meet and Greet event was held at the Central Library.

To keep Friends informed of events, three issues of the Among Friends newsletter were sent to all members.

Once again, Friends took part in the annual budget deliberations of City Council and spoke in support of the Library’s budget request.

The following officers were elected to the executive:
- President: Deb Lowry,
- Vice-President: Maureen McKeown,
- Secretary: Peter Geigen-Miller,
- Treasurer: Yuriy Tyschuk,
- Past-President: Carmen Sprovieri.

The 2011 holiday campaign began November 5 and will continue until December 17. This is the twentieth anniversary for this program and in the past nineteen years, more than 135,000 new books have been given to London children. Our participating bookstores, Coles Bookstores, Oxford Book Shop, Scholar’s Choice stores, Mastermind Toys and Books, Chapters North and South and the UWO Bookstores will again take 20% off the price of books purchased for A Book For Every Child®. New books and financial donations are also always welcome at any library branch.

Numerous London children have learned about fairy tales and dinosaurs thanks to generous London donors. For this special anniversary, it would be wonderful to fill the donation boxes to the brim. This is your opportunity to share your love of reading with a London child by donating to A Book For Every Child®.

Editor's note: Proceeds from sales at the Library Book Store on Nov 26 and Dec 6 will be donated to A Book For Every Child®.

How about joining Friends? - Anne Rasmussen

The mandate of the Friends of the London Public Library is to advocate on behalf of the Library and to raise funds to enhance library programs and services. Funds are raised through memberships, donations, the Book Sale in October and the Book Store outside the entrance to the Central Library. The funds raised are used to support a wide variety of library programs not covered by the City operating grant.

We would welcome you as a member of the Friends of the London Public Library and would greatly appreciate your support of these efforts. Our membership fees are low and the work they allow us to do is worthwhile. Please support the London Public Library by filling out the membership form and becoming a member of the Friends of the London Public Library.

Winners of the draw from membership renewals returned by October 31 are Douglas MacKenzie, Kenneth Cossey and Maureen Zunti. Congratulations to the winners; their books will be delivered during November.

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November, 2011
Friends of the Year - Connie Sullivan

At the Annual General Meeting, Friends of LPL recognized Ron and Karen Payne and Liz Lawson (left to right below) as Friends of the Year 2011. These generous individuals were friends of the London Public Library even before Friends of LPL was formed. In fact, Karen and Ron organized the first big book sale not under the auspices of the Library. Karen recruited the volunteers, Ron did much of the heavy lifting and Liz was a volunteer cashier at the sale, held at Masonville Mall. $24,000 was raised and helped demonstrate to the City the importance and need for a Masonville library branch.

Karen, Ron and Liz have been members since the beginning of Friends of LPL in 1993; Karen recalls attending the first Friends meeting in Byron. This gracious trio has served as the Friends hospitality team for most of Friends' existence, providing refreshments at countless events and programs sponsored by the Friends and the London Public Library. They have brought smiling faces, conversation, refreshing punch, and tasty snacks to audiences and authors, panelists, performers, political hopefuls, members, volunteers, and children.

Friends of LPL has been very fortunate to have Karen, Ron and Liz as such hospitable and dedicated advocates for our organization as we grew from a fledgling organization into a forceful one. May we always express the mission they have had for welcoming Friends and friends alike, and for helping to make all who visit the Library feel at home.

The Friend of the Year Award includes a donation of $200 made on behalf of the recipient. Karen, Ron and Liz have requested that the donation go to the A Book for Every Child® campaign.

Bonnie Burnard, Speaking with Friends - Carmen Sprovieri

As part of the Speaking With Friends series, London award-winning author, Bonnie Burnard, was welcomed on October 3, following the Annual General Meeting. The audience was treated to a fine reading from her book, “The Good House”, which won the Giller prize in 1999. She graciously answered numerous questions which made for a most enjoyable evening. Following the reading, Friends hosted a reception, Oxford Books provided books for purchase, and Ms. Burnard was available for an autograph session. Proceeds from the event went to children and youth literacy programs at the London Public Library.

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New Executive Member - Len Carey
Maureen McKeown - Vice-President

Maureen (Moe) was born in London, graduating from the University of Western Ontario (English/Film). Her career took her away from London but she returned in 1991. In 2009, after 34 years with the federal government, retirement offered the opportunity for her and her husband, Doug, to refocus on the city they love.

Her life-long interest in reading began with visits to the Byron library as a child. Moe has always supported the public library system wherever she has lived. She says that “the opportunity to work with Friends seemed like a natural way to be involved with an organization I think so highly of”.

Thanks to Suzanne O’Neill - Carmen Sprovieri
Our thanks to Suzanne O’Neill for serving as Co-Chair and Past Co-Chair of the Friends. During this time, she contributed to and helped organize numerous events and functions put on by Friends. Her expertise as a past Board member of the London Public Library and as Librarian at Fanshawe College was invaluable to the Executive. She provided critical leadership, direction and guidance. She was always supportive and did whatever she could to ensure everything was well organized. We will miss her on the Executive but are pleased that she will continue to participate in Friends events and will lend a hand when needed.

Note
Store closed
Dec 24 - Jan 2

Editor’s note: You can now access web pages directly from the electronic newsletter by clicking on text encased in a soft blue border. 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 published and mailed to members three times each 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.

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