



**Gabriele Schreiber Friends of the Year
Award Presentation
Chesley and Area Friends of the Library**

Ellen Kerr, Director, Chesley Library, Dorothy Macnaughton, President, FOCAL Danni Starbuck, President, Chesley and Area Friends of the Library, Mary Witzke, Friend and Mayor Ron Oswald.

From the President's Desk . . .

by Dorothy Macnaughton

All of you to whom this newsletter is sent are Friends of Canadian Library supporters and most of you are active Friends volunteers in your local communities. FOCAL appreciates that support, as do your libraries.

The volunteer work you do in your communities counts for a great deal and it benefits everyone, young and old. Our efforts are meaningful and visible. We are partners in our library's long-term vision to be an integral and important part of our communities.

I am currently not only President of FOCAL, but also President of my local Friends of the Library group in Sault Ste. Marie, a community of around 70,000 people in northern Ontario. Like many communities, ours is struggling with job losses and there is less money available from governments or businesses for many organizations.

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**Watch our website for news on teleconferences
and regional meetings in your area.**

Teleconferences

A toll-free number and password will be provided.
(focal@accessola.com)

Skype

Download the free software and find
Friends of the Library online!

See "Conference and Networking" insert.

From the President's Desk . . .



Dorothy Macnaughton

An interesting observation, however, is that our Friends group continues to raise significant funds for our three library branches. Sales of reasonably priced used books have increased, not decreased. People just cannot afford to purchase new books. Other Friends fundraisers may not make quite as much as in years past, but there is still a high level of support for Friends because people still believe in the value of their libraries.

FOCAL was formed just over 11 years ago to support Friends groups across Canada with information and support and to offer libraries and library Trustees assistance in forming and supporting Friends groups. We are a volunteer Board who would like to see more Friends groups across Canada and who would like to offer you and your group and any others you may know resources to help your group grow and thrive.

Membership base and networking . . .

We can do that if we have a good membership base and people who are willing to network and share ideas. FOCAL would like to ensure we have up to date records of Friends groups across Canada. If you could help add to our national listing of Friends groups, please let us know by e-mailing the FOCAL mailbox or sending us contact information by mail.

Our listserv . . .

Another FOCAL initiative which you will read about in this newsletter is our listserv, which has been reactivated and which can be a useful tool for the exchange of ideas among groups. Please feel free to ask questions anytime for discussion.

Conferences . . .

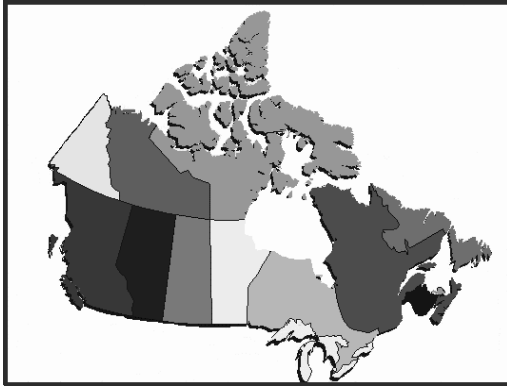
With limited funding, we are trying to hold at least two Friends teleconferences a year, with a variety of topics to be discussed, where Friends can share ideas with each other. We have similar opportunities to provide information and resources at provincial and regional library conferences, where FOCAL sessions have been accepted.

Your support . . .

We are only as strong as our membership base and we need your continued support, not only financially, but by exchanging ideas that have worked in your Friends group and by assisting us in small ways. You might want to consider sharing ideas on the listserv, phoning in for the next Friends teleconference, serving on a FOCAL Committee or on the Board.

The FOCAL Board is a dedicated group of individuals who are committed to the long-term growth of Friends groups across Canada. We look forward to hearing from you and to having you become an integral part of our organization.

Our Map of Friends Associations Across Canada



We sent an appeal to provincial library associations late last year. We wanted libraries to look at our cross-country listing of Friends of the Library associations, and to let us know who might be missing. We gathered more than a dozen new listings, and made corrections to more.

It is notable in British Columbia that we now have four listings for school libraries. We added Friends of Victoria University Library, an academic Friends group. And finally, we can add Friends of the Iqaluit Centennial Library, located in Nunavut.

Visit our website (www.friendsoflibraries.ca) and click on the map, to check your entry in our national list. Update your website listing, and check to make sure we have listed Friends associations in your region.

Recent additions to our national directory:

British Columbia

Friends of the Fraser Lake Public Library Association
BC Coalition for School Libraries
Vancouver School District's Friends of the School Library
Friends of the School Library for the Vancouver School District
Hope Friends of the Library (Fraser Valley Regional Library)
Friends of the Powell River District Library

Alberta

Friends of the Forestburg Library
Friends of the Water Valley Public Library Society
Friends of the Brownfield Community Library
Friends of the Hardisty and District Public Library

Ontario

Black River-Matheson Friends of the Library
Friends of the Bata Library, Trent University
Friends of the Orangeville Public Library
Friends of the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library
The Ridgetown Friends of the Library (Chatham Kent Public Library)
The Blenheim Friends of the Library (Chatham Kent Public Library)
The Dresden Friends of the Library (Chatham Kent Public Library)
Friends of Victoria University Library

Quebec

Les Amis de la Bibliothèque de Pointe-Claire / The Friends of the Pointe-Claire Library

Nova Scotia

Friends of South Shore Public Libraries (Bridgewater)
Friends of the Pugwash Library
Friends of the McConnell Library, Sydney

Nunavut

Friends of the Iqaluit Centennial Library



Friends in Lindsay Celebrate 10th Anniversary

They plan to celebrate the year with many events.

February

- Young Authors' Contest - short story fiction contest

March

- Friends' Booth at the Kawartha Lakes Spring/Summer Leisure Fair
- Flower Arranging with Meredith Montgomery

April

- Artistic director Robert Winslow from the 4th Line Theatre gives a presentation about the history of his theatre and upcoming productions
- "An Evening With" author Lynwood Barclay speaks about his mystery novels and his journalism career

May

- Gardening season workshops three evenings during May
- 10th Birthday Party and Open House on Saturday, May 23rd

June

- Lakeland Storytellers' Festival, an event for the whole family

July and August

- Saturday Book Sales

September

- "Doors Open Ontario" in the Carnegie Library section
- Our Annual General Meeting
- Winners of the Young Authors' Contest will be announced and prizes awarded

Look for their special 10th anniversary newsletter on their website:
www.city.kawarthalakes.on.ca/community/library/friends



Afternoons at the Library in Warton

Held every second Tuesday from 2-4 p.m.

Tuesday, February 10th: Valentine's Celebration! We will be screening the film 'Sleepless in Seattle'

Tuesday, March 10th: St. Patrick's! We will be having a Crokinole Tournament.

Tuesday, April 14th: Special guest author John Wright will be joining us.

Tuesday, May 12th: How to make your very own Japanese Flower Arrangements (everyone will get to make one and take it home!).

Tuesday, June 9th: Our final Afternoon before the summer break, we will be screening the film 'My Big Fat Greek Wedding'.

The Friends also host monthly book club meetings.

Visit the library website for event listings:
<http://library.brucecounty.on.ca/wilib>



Anti-Lead law in the United States

Libraries in the United States could be impacted by lead testing bill. Under the new interpretation of the law, books would be subject to the same testing standards as children’s toys and clothing.

These regulations go into effect on February 10th, 2009, which means school, academic and public libraries will be forced to either remove all children’s books from the shelves, or ban children from entering libraries completely.

Friends of Libraries will be glad to know the requirement for lead testing does NOT pertain to used book sales or thrift stores!

Thanks to concerns aired during the ALA Midwinter Meeting an extension was announced. According to a news story on the ALA website “The extension until February 10, 2010, puts an end to the nightmare scenario envisioned by some in the library community of having to either ban children from their facilities or cordon off the book collections in youth services areas . . .”



Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations

February 1, 2009 marks the date when Friends of Libraries U.S.A. (FOLUSA) and the Association for Library Trustees and Advocates (ALTA) join forces to become an expanded division of the American Library Association (ALA). The new organization will be called the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations, or ALTAFF for short.

According to the ALA website, this new division will help Trustees and Friends work together at the local, state, and national levels to effectively promote and advocate for libraries. Both boards agree that libraries benefit when Trustees and Friends have strong working relationships at the local level and this will be modeled through ALTAFF. “While their roles are different, the fact that both groups are comprised of citizens who care about and support their libraries makes them natural allies,” said ALTA president Peggy Danhof.

FOCAL’s Past President Nicholas Spillios was at the ALA Midwinter meeting, where more details were provided. Please look online to learn more about membership options: <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/altaff/membership/mbrbenefits.cfm>

PHOTO GALLERY

We are starting to add your photos to our website. Please send pictures and captions.



Friends in Lindsay had a table with displays and posters at the Kawartha Leisure Fair. “We thought it would help to give us some exposure and attract new members,” wrote Friends President Margaret Moreau.

Look online for the current newsletter of the
Friends of the Ottawa Public Library

www.ottawapubliclibraryfriends.ca/news_e.html

FOPLA volunteers at the 2008 Mammoth Book Sale; l to r: Jean Sida, Ann Nowell, Norma Goldsmith, Dolores Dufresne, Tamra Pittarelli and Jan Harder.

Photo by Lori Nash



PHOTO GALLERY

A weekend visit with Friends of the Peterborough Public Library

by Jami van Haaften

I was lucky to be in Peterborough during the weekend of their fall books sale in September 2008. The Friends take one day to set up, and the booksale is conducted over two days. They made over \$18,000.

A twenty-five cent booksale recently made \$1,200 in four hours. Their spring booksale is scheduled for April 18-19th.

They are fortunate to have dedicated space in the basement of the library, including a large area where pallets can hold boxes of books, and a shelving area where more books can be shelved and sorted.

According to their website, Dale Noble and Heather Stremler are the very able and dedicated co-ordinators of the Book Sale. Assisting them is a group which meets every Tuesday morning, year round, to sort the books for the next Book Sale. This dedicated group not only accomplish a lot of sorting but they have an enjoyable social gathering.



Barbara Connor, President of the Friends, spoke with me in the booksale's Special Collections Room, during the 2008 fall sale.



Storage space in the basement of the Peterborough library is used to sort and store books.



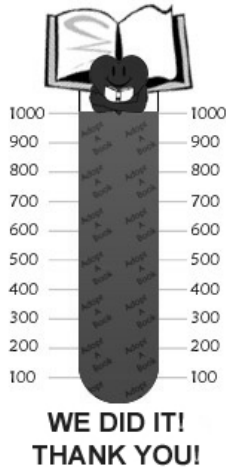
Heather Stremler gave me a tour of the storage area, wearing the T-Shirt worn by all book sale volunteers.

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Adopt a Book Campaign in Nova Scotia

Every two years the Western Counties Regional Library has an adopt-a-book campaign. In 2008, they set a goal of 1,000 books, to be adopted between April and June. They exceeded their goal, with the donation of 1372 books.

*Challenge
Meter*



In the last decade the library has raised nearly \$125,000 through its Adopt-a-Book campaign, which has been sponsored by CJLS Radio since its inception.

Gary Archibald, chairman of the regional library board, acknowledged support from the Friends of the Library.

“Support groups such as the Friends of the Library are putting together special events in support of their library branches. From Mother’s Day teas to plant and bake sales, the Friends groups will be holding Adopt-A-Book fundraisers throughout the campaign,” said Archibald.*

Individuals and groups can purchase books for adoption at their local branch library. When not in circulation, the books remain on the shelves of the branch library designated by the adopter. The average price of a book is between \$25-30, but books are available for as little as \$5. Bookplates go into books acquired through the campaign. The donor can choose how their donation is acknowledged..

Adopt a library website:

<https://trademart-5.ednet.ns.ca/donate/adopt2008/index.html>

* *Quote from <http://www.novanewsnow.com/> website.*

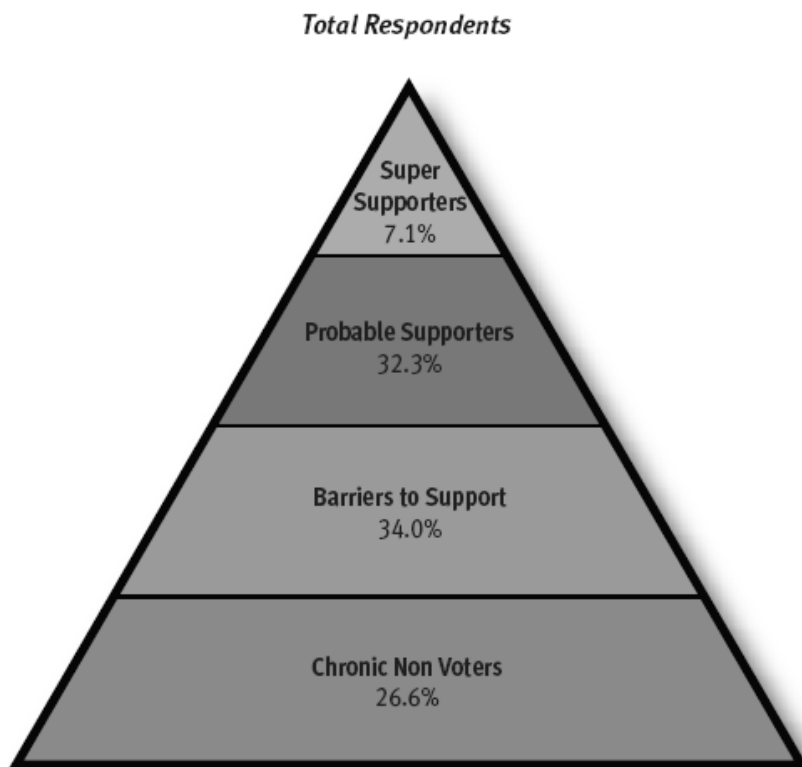
Send us news of your Adopt-a-Book campaign for our next newsletter . . .

From Awareness to Funding: a study of library support in America

The new report provides research about public perception about library funding and library support in the United States. The report also evaluated the potential of a large-scale marketing and advocacy campaign to increase library funding. OCLC Online Computer Library Center, Inc. was awarded a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to conduct the research.

U.S residents between the ages of 18 to 69 in cities with less than 200,000 population were surveyed. The report concluded a voter's attitudes, perceptions and behaviours, not his/her demographics, are the most important determinants of willingness to support increases in library funding.

Library Supporter Segmentation Pyramid



Percentage of population ages 18–69 living in communities of less than 200,000 residents
Source: *From Awareness to Funding*, OCLC, 2008

Funding attitudes and behaviour are driven by:

1. Likelihood of voting favorably if a library referendum was on the ballot
2. General voting behavior
3. Barriers to using/supporting the library
4. Library services used
5. Library attitudes
6. Librarian perceptions.

The report concluded there are sufficient Super Supporters and Probable Supporters to potentially increase the success rate of library funding with a targeted campaign aimed at these groups. The report discussed strategies to mobilize these supporters.

A successful library funding support campaign must:

- Make the library relevant for the 21st century
- Instil a sense of urgency by putting the library in a competitive context for funding, alongside the public schools, fire department and police department
- Activate conversations about the library's importance in community infrastructure and its role in the community's future.

Jenny Johnson, one of the principal contributors to the report, presented at the Ontario Library Association Superconference. The full report may be found online. (<http://www.oclc.org/reports/funding/default.htm>)

Friends Forum . . .

Friends of the Cranbrook Public Library obtained grants to help the Library complete the first phase of the landscape plan. They plan to purchase outdoor book benches. A shade garden will be planted near the benches.

Donations have been invested in new books for the medical section and the new book shelf, and animal floor cushions for the children's section. On order are also new chairs for the teen section, a larger bulletin board, and a mobile display unit for the children's audio-visual material.

The Friends offer a popular travelogue series in the lecture theatre in partnership with the College of the Rockies. They are usually presented the second Monday of each month. Admission to the travelogues is by donation. Funds raised at the travelogues are donated to update the travel section in the Library.

Friends of the Nelson Public Library have coordinated applications for grants and raised funds for children's Early Literacy stations and children's computers and desks.

Annually, the Friends organize two events: a used book sale from which a significant portion of the proceeds is donated to the Library for the purchase of new books, and a winter raffle. A different theme is selected for these raffle funds each year.

The September book sale of the **Friends of the Victoria Public Library** raised \$4,147.00. The Friends thanked their new Book Sale Coordinator Jim Scott, their new Publicity Coordinator Deborah Begoray, their corps of tireless volunteers and a number of sponsors, including: Metro-Waste Paper Recovery Inc. AJM Campbell Munro's Books Rogers' Chocolates Thrifty Foods Country Grocer SaveOn Foods McDonald's William Head Work Release Programme Archie Browning Arena

The Friends directed a \$5,000 donation in June 2008 towards setting up depository collections in community shelters and to support outreach shelters and other community organizations whose clients lack access to reading materials. So far collections have been put in place at Streetlink, Sandy Merriman House, Dowler House, BC Families in Transition (formerly the Single Parents Resource Centre, the John Howard Society, The Mustard Seed, and Our Place.

The **Friends of the Westmount Public Library** have provided over \$74,000 to the Library. The support includes:

- Annual funding for the entire FastReads collection
- Startup collection of 100 DVDs
- TumbleBooks subscription, an online collection of interactive animated talking storybooks for kids
- New copies and new translations of the classics
- New selections for the art, music, biography, and film & filmmaking sections
- Books in a Bag service, 10 copies of bookclub selections, author information and reviews for bookclubs
- Author visits
- Words and music concerts
- Material for the Library's storyteller's cape, the *Cloak of Imagining*



Friends of the Nelson Public Library has their newsletter online. It includes tips on recycling old books!

Friends website www.rdpl.org/friends-of-the-library

Library Lamp from old books



<http://www.thriftyfun.com/tf263676.tip.html>

Hardcover Book Purse



<http://www.hgtv.com/crafting/recycled-hardcover-book-purse/index.html>



The **Fundy Library Region** held their 21st annual book sale in 2008, and rated it “a great success”. The funds earned will benefit the collections of all library branches throughout southwestern New Brunswick. The book sale is a joint effort by all staff, board members and Friends of the Library who volunteered their time to assist with the book sale. Two prizes are drawn – one for a volunteer winner and one for a book sale buyer.



The **Friends of the Strathcona Public Library** raised \$7000 in 2008. One of their most successful events is a self-guided tour of 10 charming water gardens. During a Sunday in July, participants access private gardens, taking in the pleasures of waterfalls, streambeds and pools surrounded by enchanting gardens. Ticket booklets cost of \$12 each.



2008 was the 20th anniversary of the **Friends of the Mississauga Public Library**. Every year the Friends raise over \$100,000 to assist in delivering the Library's programs.

<http://www.mississauga.ca/portal/residents/friendsofthelibrary>

Library Advocacy from the United Kingdom



The **Love Libraries campaign** is a campaign to make England's public libraries even better. It is led by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. MLA is the lead strategic agency for museums, libraries and archives.

www.lovelibraries.co.uk/



This report on the current state of the public library service **Taking stock: the future of our public library service** concludes that it should build on its past successes, learn from the failed experience of contracting out other public services and go forward as a well-funded, publicly provided, top quality public service fit for the 21st century.

In the report, Unison, the public sector trade union in support of public libraries (and public library jobs) has called on the government and local authorities to adopt a five point plan to maintain and improve the library service.

- Adequate resources and funding for library services, staff and premises
- Empowerment of staff and communities to shape services together
- Partnership working between libraries and councils across the UK to share information and good practice
- Responsiveness to library users from all backgrounds
- Provision of staff training and professional development

www.unison.org.uk//acrobat/17301.pdf

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