



Great Ideas From Alberta Friends

Compiled By Nicholas Spillios, Past President of Canadian Libraries

- Just Desserts, Toronto International Film Festival Program - St. Albert
- Book Give Aways for Donations - Lacombe
- Boutique (Book Shop), Mountain Film Festival Showcase – Lethbridge
- Rotary Club Matching Grant, Cash For Camping, Christmas Lottery - Grand Prairie
- Building Garden for Library Anniversary - Stony Plain
- Adopt-A-Book, Mad Hatters Tea Party, Pennies For Paperbacks, Recycling For Reading - Chestermere
- Tour of County - Strathcona County
- Books2Sort, Co-sponsor Multi-Lingual Writers Conference, Budget Presentation To City Council, Support Lois Hole Library Teen Centre - Edmonton
- Lobby Government for Library Grant Increase - Innisfail
- Establish Endowment Fund W/District Community Fund, Library Fireplaces - Red Deer
- Knit - A- Thon - Forestburg
- Holiday Gift Baskets (books, memberships) For Sale - Okotoks
- Library Reading Area Fireplace, Monthly Speaker Series – Canmore

Ideas from Friends of Canadian Libraries too

- Annual Authors Brunch – Winnipeg, MB
- Cloth Book Bags - Sundridge-Strong, ON
- Mardi Gras Chocolate Evening – Sault Ste. Marie, ON
- Outreach program - Victoria, B.C.
- Afternoons at the Library - Warton, ON
- Young Authors Contest - Lindsay, ON

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Nicholas Spillios and Jocelyn MacNiel hosted the Friends of Canadian Libraries exhibit in Edmonton.

See our Conference Report for an overview of our conference programming during 2010.

Visit our website to find reports, PowerPoint presentations and handouts you can share at your next Friends meeting.

www.friendsoflibraries.ca/conferences.html

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Gabriele Schreiber Friends of the Year Award 2009 Winner



In the words of Susanna Hubbard Krimmer, CEO and Chief Librarian at the London Public Library, “The Friends show tremendous passion in their support of literacy programs, particularly for children and youth.

In 2009, the Friends raised \$125,000 to donate to the library to support, among other initiatives, enhancements to the children’s area of the newly renovated Carson Branch Library and the continuation of LPL’s Summer Reading Program, the ongoing R.E.A.D. program for reluctant readers and other literacy initiatives for children. The London Public Library could not continue many of these programs without this financial support. The impact of these programs, which reach thousands of children every year, is felt throughout the community and in the individual lives of children and their families.”

Teleconference for FOCAL members

Monday September 27

Pacific	5:00 p.m.
Mountain	6:00 p.m.
Central	7:00 p.m.
Eastern	8:00 p.m.
Atlantic	9:00 p.m.
Newfoundland	9:30 p.m.

A toll-free number and password will be provided.
Email focal@accessola.com or call (705) 523-3415.

Gabriele Schreiber Friends of the Year Award 2009 . . .

As well as this substantial financial contribution to the library, the London Friends also addressed the Board of Control to advocate that there be no cuts to the library budget. Their efforts to ensure the library budget would not be cut were successful.

The London Friends collaborate with several other community organizations to support library programs and services.

A well organized and volunteer run book store and large annual book sale raise significant funds for the London Friends (a total of over \$112,000). The Friends hosted and provided refreshments for several library events.

The judges were impressed by the wide range of activities which the London Friends undertook in 2009, as well as their excellent volunteer base. Their submission clearly described the ways they support and act as advocates for their library, and how they partner with other community agencies.

We congratulate the Friends of the London Public Library for winning this prestigious award and for the great support they offer their library throughout the year.

How Friends benefit the Library



- Advocacy
 - Presentation to City's Board of Control
- Fundraising events and initiatives
 - Annual book sale
 - The Library Store
 - ATM Machine
- Programs
 - Speaking with Friends
 - Book for Every Child
 - Receptions for library events

Membership and Volunteer Involvement

- Total number of members: 194
- Total number of volunteers: 305
- Approximate total annual volunteer hours: 92000

Impact on Library Services

- Tremendous enhancements to library services and programs for the community through fundraising support
- Programs entirely run by Friends - highlights the volunteer support for the library
- Positive relations through collaboration and excellent communications
- Increased networking and community involvement and support for the library

Innovation

\$10,000 donation to enhance children's area of the renovated Carson Branch. Purchases included story time carpet, trains, primary colour blocks, a fabric bulletin board, new books projection screen

Community Involvement beyond the library



Books for every child campaign organized by the Friends involves networking with 26 community agencies, local book stores and the media, with books distributed to children most in need.

Caring Canadians, Giving Canadians

Report from Volunteer Canada, 2009,
www.givingandvolunteering.ca/

Support to nonprofit and voluntary organizations is concentrated among a small minority of Canadians. The top quarter of donors (who gave \$364 or more) who also volunteered at least one hour during 2007 accounted for just 14% of the Canadian population, but contributed 59% of total donations and 40% of total volunteer hours.

Summary of the report:

Giving to charitable and nonprofit organizations

- Almost 23 million Canadians – 84% of the population – made a financial donation to a charitable or other nonprofit organization in 2007
- Canadians donated a total of \$10 billion in 2007, which represents an increase of 12% in donations from the \$8.9 billion reported in 2004
- Religious organizations were the biggest beneficiaries, receiving 46% of all donated dollars followed by health organizations (15%) and social services organizations (10%).
- The average annual donation increased by 9% (from \$400 in 2004 to \$437 in 2007).
- The top 25% of donors (who contributed \$364 or more annually) accounted for 82% of the total value of donations.
- Those who give the most are more likely than others to be older, to have higher household incomes and more formal education, to be married or widowed, and to be religiously active.
- Donors with lower incomes give more when their donations are expressed as a percentage of total income.
- Canadians make donations most frequently in response to a request through the mail, when asked by someone in a public place, such as on the street or in a shopping centre, or in response to door-to-door canvassing.
- 42% of the total value of donations is collected in places of worship while 16% is donated in response to requests through the mail.
- Donors who planned their donations in advance and supported the same organizations repeatedly over time give significantly more than those who do not.

Volunteering through an organization

- Almost 12.5 million Canadians or 46% of the population aged 15 and over, volunteered during 2007
- The number of volunteers has increased by 5.7% due, in part, to the increase in the size of the population aged 15 and older.
- Most of the hours contributed went to sports and recreation, social services, education and research, and religious organizations.
- The top 25% of volunteers, who contributed 171 or more hours annually, accounted for over three-quarters (78%) of total volunteer hours.
- The highest rates of volunteering were found among young Canadians, those with higher levels of formal education and household income, those with school-aged children in the household, and the religiously active.
- Those who contribute the most hours are more likely to be seniors, to have higher levels of education, lower household incomes, no children in the household, and to be religiously active.
- The most frequent types of volunteer activities that Canadians reported were organizing or supervising events, fundraising, sitting on committees or boards and teaching, educating or mentoring.
- The reasons most frequently reported for volunteering were to make a contribution to the community, to use skills and experiences, and having been personally affected by the cause the organization supports.
- Other reasons, reported by close to half of volunteers, were to explore strengths, to network with or meet people, or because friends volunteered.
- Many individuals indicated that they did not volunteer more or volunteer at all because they were not asked.

FOCAL ALBERTA FRIENDS SURVEY UNCOVERS SOME SURPRISES

by Nicholas Spillios, FOCAL Past President

Results of a survey of Alberta Friends uncovered some interesting, as well as surprising, revelations about Alberta Friends.

While fund-raising and advocacy were the major focus of many groups, partnerships and independent initiatives to work for the good of their library was also evident. The following reporting was received from 20-25 groups out of a total of almost fifty groups in the province. In most cases, Friends groups acted as an independent entity, although in some of the smaller centres the separation of Friends boards from the administration was somewhat indistinguishable, as library board members were also mentioned as acting members of the Friends board.

1. FUND-RAISING

Friends in Alberta have discovered the results to be gained from the operation of casinos. While some of the larger urban Friends reported substantial donations to their libraries from this source, in addition, some of the smaller libraries undertook some creative endeavours. Forestburg sponsored a Knit-A-Thon. Stony Plain supported the building of a garden for their library's 60th anniversary. Lacombe sponsored Book-Give-Aways in a Donations Exchange. Chestermere has an Adopt-A-Book project in place. Friends groups in larger libraries made substantial donations from casino funding as was the case with the Teen Centre at the new Lois Hole Library in Edmonton. St. Albert Friends have held a "Just Desserts" event which raised \$10,000. Stony Plain supported the building of a Library Garden through a matching government grant.

All Friends groups reported that book sales were predominant as the focus of their fund-raising activities. In the case of larger centres, sales had become a major responsibility of the Friends delegated to them by staff and were being held twice and even thrice a year as was the case in Lethbridge and Edmonton.

2. ADVOCACY

In several cases, Friends spoke on an annual basis to City Council in defence of the Library Annual Budget. Innisfail reported lobbying the provincial government for an increase in library grants.

3. FRIENDS AS AN INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY GROUP

The Red Deer Friends have established an Endowment fund in conjunction with the District Community Fund. Chestermere, a small town, applied for a Community Initiatives Program Matching Grant from the provincial government and received it for the benefit of their library.

4. FRIENDS DELIVERING LITERARY EVENTS

While several groups reported involvement and support of literary events, probably because such events are in most instances organised by staff, some groups took the initiative by organising such events. The St. Albert Friends held a Toronto Film Festival Film Circuit- Reel Mondays event which showcased films from that festival. Edmonton Friends has showcased events honouring specific celebrations and cosponsored a multilingual writers' conference.

5. FRIENDS AS PARTNERS

Some friends have discovered the benefits of establishing community partnerships. Grand Prairie and Medicine Hat worked closely with the Rotary Club for a cash and camping project and in matching a grant by this community group. Strathcona County Friends undertook a historical tour for interested citizens.



Friends of Canadian Library were invited by Counting

Opinions to conduct a national survey for Friends of Library groups. Working together with The Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations in the United States, the survey was launched in May, and ended at the end of August.

FOCAL would like to thank Frank Biss and Carl Thompson at Counting Opinions, who approached us during a conference in May 2009 to propose the idea, and met with us again during the Ontario Super Conference to polish off the final edits.

There were many hands helping to make this survey a success, including all of those who contributed to the survey. To date we have 120 completed surveys. Library associations and government agencies were very supportive in notifying their members, using their listsevr and news bulletins to help us spread the word.

The survey will provide a snapshot of this sector of the library community. Information and comments provided will allow us to collect statistical and analytical data on a regular basis.

For the first time, we will be able to measure and demonstrate the value of this important voluntary and charitable organization. Collecting information about finances, activities, challenges and membership will help to define your group, and give us data to compare from group to group, region to region and from year to year.



We have added the **CanadaHelps** logo to our website.

*** Chief Executive Officer of CanadaHelps, Owen Charters, will be speaking at the 2011 Ontario Library Association Super Conference, at a session sponsored by FOCAL.*



Use our new online payment options to pay for membership or buy our manual.

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Individual \$25.00

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Manual - How to Form Your Friends of the Library Group

Member price \$45.00

Add to Cart



Lori Nash, the past-president of the **Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association** (FOPLA) was honoured for her long-time commitment to advocacy and support of the Ottawa Public Library.

1991 – member of The Cumberland Library Board
1996 - Founding member of The Friends of the Cumberland Library
2005 - member of FOPLA's Board of Directors since 2005
2007 - Ms. Nash became President of FOPLA
2007 & 2008 - planned and executed campaigns in 2007 and 2008 to protect the Library from branch closures and budget cuts.
2009 - joined the Ottawa Public Library Foundation (OPLF) and became FOPLA Past-President.

The Friends of the Bonnechere Union Public Library (BUPL), located in Eganville Ontario, held its Fifth Annual Spring Fundraising Dinner on April 10, 2010. The group raised approximately \$3000 which allowed the library to purchase gates for a new security system.

Eganville is a village of approximately 1600 people but BUPL serves two townships with a total population of 5900. With many lakes in the area, slightly more than 25% are seasonal residents.

The dinner is a popular event in the community, so this year the group decided to expand to a larger facility. The local Legion generously offered free use of their hall which has a well-equipped kitchen. The evening felt very special because a group of the Friends decorated the hall like a spring garden, complete with bench, arbour and 2 large trees containing flowers and treehouses. The Legion already had white mini lights decorating the ceiling and 2 large umbrellas were added, upside-down and overflowing with flowers and crystal raindrops. The table centerpieces were the perfect touch – rubber duckies floating in a tiny pond complete with vegetation and every duck was reading a tiny book!

A popular local entertainer/radio personality provided the entertainment for the evening and even composed a humorous new song about the library.

The dinner has always featured a successful Silent Auction and this year was no exception. As in the past, Friends donated items and gathered the remainder from friends, relatives and local businesses. The 22 Items included, for example, jewelry, books, Black and Decker Workmate bench, quilt with matching pillow shams, handcrafted cutting board and two day passes for the CISCO Bluesfest held in Ottawa in July (the latter donated by Bluesfest).



With John Yakabuski are Diane Walsworth and Jean Davies, who successfully bid \$235.

The highlight of the evening was a live auction of an item donated by local MPP John Yakabuski. He donated a lunch for two with him in the provincial parliamentary cafeteria and a tour of the buildings. He and his wife were at the dinner and the auction was lively and entertaining. He even joined the entertainer for a few songs.

FRIENDS FORUM...



For a \$50 donation the donor's name, the name of a loved one, or the title of a favourite book will be placed on the spine of a quilted book at the branch of your choice. Corporate logos may be added for an additional \$25.00. All donations will receive a tax receipt. The donor will be notified when the name you requested has been put on the quilt.

The Friends of the East Gwillimbury Library and the Gwillimbury Quilt Guild have produced a bookshelf quilt for each of the Holland Landing and Mount Albert branches of the East Gwillimbury Public Library.

Their goals are:

- To raise \$2,500 to modify two workstations with accessible hardware and software, which was achieved in 2008
- To enhance the collections of the Holland Landing and Mount Albert branches.



Friends of the Kingston/Frontenac Public Library have merchandise for sale.

- Sturdy Book Bags - \$10.00
- Children's Book Bags - \$8.00
- Book Mark Cards - \$4.00
- Hasty Notes (10) - \$5.00
- The Library Book - \$5.00

Friends of the North Grenville Public Library in Kemptville sell book bags too!

The Municipality honoured Friends with its Arts and Culture Award in 2009 for their many contributions to the community.

North Grenville Book Fair will take place October 15-16, 2010 at the Ferguson Forestry Station.



Do you enjoy reading Friends Forum? Add your news!

- Send your newsletter to Jami van Haften, 1826 Marie Ave., Sudbury ON P3E 2X8
- Send me an email – jvanhaften@sympatico.ca
- Write your own story!
- Send us pictures . . .

FRIENDS FORUM . . .



The Circle of Friends at Carleton University will have their annual book sale **October 28th - November 1st, 2010**. Proceeds from the sale go to the Library Endowment Fund and student bursaries.

All Circle of Friends members are invited to join the Carleton University Book Circle.

Carleton Reads - The session began with each panellist championing his or her favourite book before having a conversation with Rita about books and reading in general. At the end of the session, the audience voted on which of the four books presented should be read first.

<http://www.library.carleton.ca/friends/>



The 15th annual Mammoth Used Book Sale was held on April 17th and 18th and the results were gigantic. Almost \$14,000 was raised for the **Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association** to support enhancements to Ottawa Public Library services.



Friends of the Ajax Public Library were recognized for their outstanding service to our community. Their hard work and support were officially recognized with the **Arts & Culture Community Award** with which they were presented on April 22, 2010 by the Council of the Town of Ajax.

Friends won the award for their support of music in the library, the Ajax Film Circuit purchasing the DVD system for the Rotary Room and two Early Literacy children's computers.



The **Friends of the Kentville Public Library Society** has recently formed and registered as a non-profit society for the express purpose of building a new, full service library in Kentville. Upon completion of the new library, The Friends will take great pride in turning complete ownership and maintenance of the building over to the Town. The Annapolis Valley Regional Library will continue to provide staffing and library services to the facility.

Friends of the Moose Jaw Public Library sponsored a six week program of classic children's movies, including:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Labyrinth (1986) | The Jungle Book (1967) |
| The Wizard (1989) | The Parent Trap (1961) |
| Return to Oz (1985) | The Secret of NIMH (1982) |

The **Friends of the Regina Public Library** are undertaking a history book on the past hundred years of the Regina Public Library, in partnership with the library and the Canadian Plains Research Center. The history project will include excerpts from oral histories of former library staff, essays by library staff and library supporters, archival documents and photos.

Several gift baskets were raffled off, consisting of items donated by Friends and local businesses.

All food for the buffet dinner was prepared by Friends, as well as a few other supporters who have consistently contributed food for this event. Eganville Foodland again donated the ham. This year, a new group joined the fundraising effort. Some young women who call themselves the KnitWits (a knit and chat group who meet weekly at the Library) provided 5 dozen homemade buns and two pies. Three of them spent the evening in the kitchen running the dishwasher and scrubbing pots and pans! This is a wonderful new partnership which will be strengthened by a joint baby shower being held for the librarian in September.

Leftover food was packaged, refrigerated and then sold at the end of the evening.

At the post mortem meeting, Friends shared the task of sending personal thank you cards to the many supporters who made the evening possible.

Guests reported that they had thoroughly enjoyed the evening and the challenge for the Friends is to top this next year.



This beautiful arbour was erected on the stage and surrounded by flowers as if in a garden.



Leftover food was packaged, refrigerated and then sold at the end of the evening.



This bench welcomed guests as they entered the hall.

FRIENDS FORUM...

Smithers, British Columbia - A local teacher was retiring and donated 4,500 books to the library, so we decided to hold a book sale out of our usual time frame. We had quite a few of our local authors in attendance, along with a harpist to play one day and a husband/wife team to play mandolin and flute on the second day.

It was quite successful and a lot of fun. We also were involved in the Olympic torch parade as an official warming station, providing hot chocolate and goodies to those involved and a local group of musicians put on a dance to raise funds for us.

We also were given the opportunity to sell books, receiving \$5 per book sold for a group of senior women called WE*ACT (Women Elders in Action) We applied for two small grants, used for new computers and an upgrade to our book/CD collection. (from Lorraine Doiron, Smithers)



Residents of Hamilton can support the **Friends of the Hamilton Public Library** through the purchase of entertainment books.

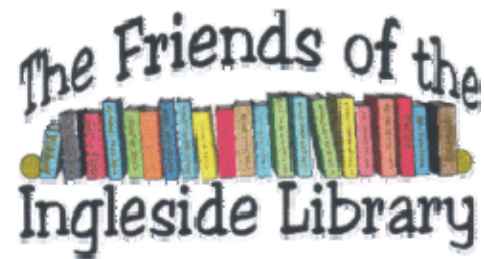
This promotional message is found on their website www.friendsofhpl.ca/Entertainment_books.html

Strengthening Libraries to Build a Stronger Community

Need a great gift idea? Entertainment books are only \$35.00

Whether it's for friends, family, clients or customers, give the gift of fun, excitement and savings.

Entertainment books are full of valuable money saving coupons to the hottest local dining and attractions. Save up to 50% on things you do everyday - fine dining, fast food, golf, hotels and entertainment.



Friends of the Library in Ingleside are involved in fundraising efforts towards the library expansion. To date, they have raised \$85,000 (of the \$100,000 target).

Friends of the Killaloe Public Library are selling

- 100% COTTON Book Bags - \$8. ea.
- Wooden Bookmarks by **SOLAR WOOD CUTS** \$3. ea. or 5 for \$12.

<http://16538.vws.magma.ca/library/fundraising.htm>



FRIENDS FORUM...

The **Friends of the Library in Midland** hosted an Authors Reading to launch the community portion of its fundraising campaign for library expansion. Coles Books staff was on hand to sell the books and the authors stayed to chat with fans and sign copies of their books. The Friends sold book bags for adults and children, note cards, postcards and Garden Tour Tickets from a booth at the local mall.

See the slide show at www.midlandlibrary.com/content/midland-public-library-community-fundraising-campaign

Friends of the Library in Mississauga ship books to a school in Sorsogon, Philippines. The school received a shipment of withdrawn Mississauga Library System children's books. Each year, the Library and Friends support literacy and the work of relief groups around the world.

Each year the Friends of the Library offer Library Education Awards supporting Mississauga residents who are pursuing a career in library science. The students won scholarships this year.



Friends of the Library in St. Thomas are selling a limited edition historical map "Bird's Eye View of St. Thomas 1886"

<http://www.st-thomas.library.on.ca/index.php/Friends/LimitedEdition1886Map>



Friends in Oakville took part in a giant community garage sale in May, selling nearly new and used books.



Pictures from their April, 2010 booksale are found on their website <http://friendsofthelibrary.ca/>