



November 2023

# Among Friends

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of the Friends Executive, we hope you are well and prepared for the cooler winter weather. We have been busy with the Fall Book Sale, planning for the Annual General Meeting, preparing for the A Book for Every Child program and more.

The Fall Book Sale was a great success with over \$40,000 raised. A special thanks to Don Menard and the team of volunteers who worked so hard to make this possible. Proceeds from the sale go to the Library to fund value added programs and services for the community that would not be possible without these funds. This year the Friends were able to give more than \$79,000 for such programs. Read more inside about the details of the programs supported by Friends of the Library funds.

If you are looking for Christmas gifts, don't forget to check out the Friends of the Library Book Store. Read more about what is available and new developments.

The A Book for Every Child program, in its 32nd year, began on November 1st. This program has distributed thousands of books over the years to children who might otherwise not have a new book of their own. Read more inside as to how you can contribute.

The Annual General Meeting is planned for January 10, 2024 and will be followed by the very popular Jazz for the People program. At the Annual General Meeting, a deserving Friend is awarded the Friend of the Year. If you would like to nominate someone, details on how can be found in the newsletter. The information was sent out at an earlier date by either email or mail.

We value your membership and hope you will read more about the benefits, renewal options, and fees. We thank you for your past membership and look forward to your continued support.

My best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and my sincere thanks to the Friends Executive and to London Public Library staff for their commitment and continued support.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact us.

Voicemail: 519-661-2448

Email: [friends@lpl.ca](mailto:friends@lpl.ca)



Carmen Sprovieri, President



Friends of the  
London Public Library

*Community Support For Your Library*

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## FRIENDS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – January 10, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

The Friends Annual General Meeting will be held at the Central Library on January 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the Stevenson & Hunt Meeting Room. Following the AGM, enjoy a Jazz for the People concert at 7:00 p.m. in the Wolf Performance Hall. Jazz for the People is a library program supported by the Friends of the Library. We hope to see you there!

## FRIEND OF THE YEAR 2023 – CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Friend of the Year Award is given to an individual or group that demonstrates:

- A gift of vision or ideas to the Library that enhances its role in the community or
- Community leadership in support of the Library's facilities, programs and services or
- An extraordinary contribution to the Library of personal or collective time, energy, or resources.

## Do you know someone or a group that deserves to be the 2023 Friend of the Year?

To nominate someone, submit a Letter of Nomination (maximum 2 pages) that includes the name, address of the nominee, and signatures, addresses and phone numbers of three (3) nominators.

Nomination letters should be sent by December 15, 2023 to:

President, Friends of the London Public Library  
251 Dundas Street  
London, ON N6A 6H9  
Or Email: [friends@lpl.ca](mailto:friends@lpl.ca)

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## 2023 FALL BOOK SALE

The annual Giant Fall Book Sale, conducted by the Friends of the London Public Library, is now history. This year's sale, Oct. 20–22, again took place in the Lower Level at Centennial Hall in downtown London. By the Sunday close of the sale, featuring the popular Fill-a-Bag for \$5.00, organizers were exhausted but very pleased when they learned that gross receipts totalled approximately \$43,000. Proceeds from the sale are used to enhance Library initiatives, often related to the encouragement of literacy skills.

The hard work of our many volunteers contributed significantly to the sale's success. The support of London Public Library staff and our corporate donors, Campbell Bros Moving and Yale Industrial Trucks, were also key factors enabling the sale to succeed. Most importantly, our thanks go to the public who turned out for the sale in solid numbers to buy books and other materials. Our thanks also to the contributions of many donors of books and other materials throughout the year. Such donations do much to enhance the breadth and depth of the sale and are very much appreciated.

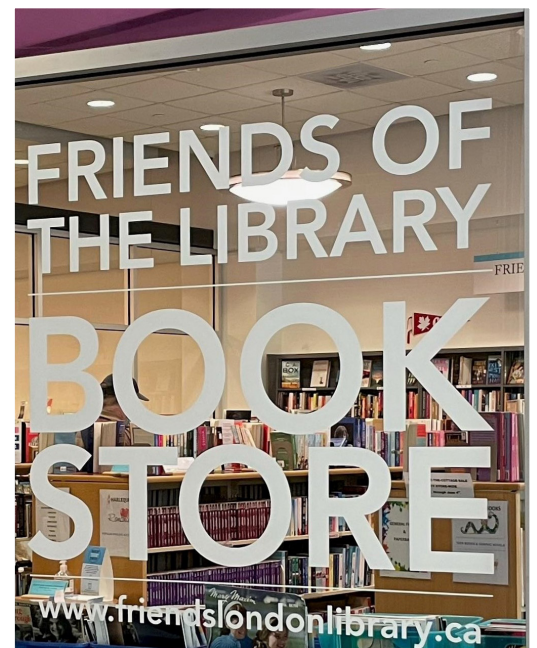
Preparations are already underway for the 2024 Sale, but, remember, the Friends of the London Public Library Book Store in the Central Library is open year-round for book lovers.

## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK STORE REPORT

The Friends of the Library Book Store is pleased to offer a wide selection of Christmas books, DVD movies, Music and Puzzles. Many of the items are in excellent, gift-quality condition. The book store hours are Monday to Wednesday, 10:00–4:00, Thursday and Friday, 10:00–5:00 and Saturday 10:00–4:00.

The book store has begun compiling a digital record of the store's inventory, 4,800 items so far with many more to be added. It is anticipated that once the inventory is created it will be made available for customers to search online, just like the Library's catalogue can be searched.

The proceeds from the donation box on the store counter totaled \$330 and a further \$1,000 was donated to support the A Book for Every Child campaign.



Supporting value-added Library programs



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## A BOOK FOR EVERY CHILD

### 32 YEARS!

Yes – this is the 32nd year of London Public Library's A Book for Every Child program. Once again, through this program, thousands of books will be distributed (via schools and agencies) to children who might otherwise not have a new book of their own.

The targeted campaign for 2023 started on November 1 and will continue until December 16. During this time, the 5 participating bookstores will give a 20% discount on books purchased for the program. Thank you to: The Book Store at Western, Chapters South London, Coles Masonville Place, Indigo North London, and Oxford Book Shop. Purchases are left at the stores to be picked up by Friends volunteers.

Financial donations to A Book for Every Child are an important way to give to the campaign. This allows Library staff to "meet the growing need for multilingual and other specific reading needs and to take advantage of vendor discounts." Financial donations can be made online at [www.lpl.ca/bfec](http://www.lpl.ca/bfec), by calling 519-661-5100 x5460 or at any library location.

Although the bookstore discount is only available until December 16, donations to A Book for Every Child can be made all year round. Donations can be made in memory of someone or as a gift to celebrate a special occasion.

London Public Library

## A Book for Every Child

Nov. 1 – Dec. 16

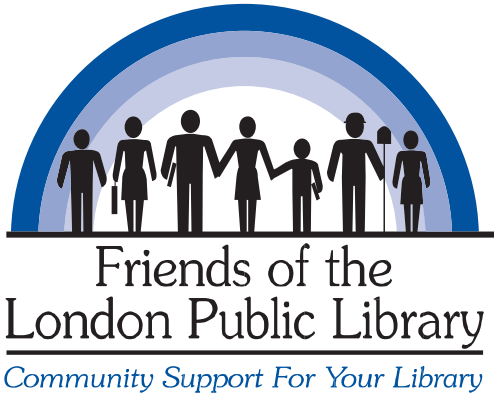


**DONATE TODAY!**

[www.lpl.ca/bfec](http://www.lpl.ca/bfec)

519-661-5100 x. 5460

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## LIBRARY 2024 REQUEST FOR DONATION FOR PROGRAMS

The Friends of the Library, on November 7, 2023, approved a request from the Library for \$79,500 of funding for value-added programs and services in support of the 2024 year. The Library submitted a 2023 Stewardship Report detailing the many ways the 2023 contribution by the Friends made a difference. These programs and services create connections that enrich lives, inspire discovery, foster creativity, and expand possibilities. The Library is very grateful for the Friends' investment in value-added programs and services at the Library. Here are details of the donation.

### Jazz for the People

\$6,500. Jazz for the People is a popular concert series held in the Library's Wolf Performance Hall. This free monthly concert series features local and regional jazz musicians. The Library plan is to present two series, spring and fall, for a total of 8 music concerts.



### Grab and Go Bags

\$5,000. Library staff put together Grab and Go bags for patrons on a wide variety of themes and genres. Each bag contains a curated selection of books, DVDs or CDs on a specific topic. There are specialized bags for all ages. Given the popularity of this program, the Library needs new bags. In recognition of our support, the Friends of the London Public Library logo would be proudly displayed on each bag.

### After School Club: Healthy Snacks

\$8,000. The After School Clubs at five libraries have seen growth since November 2022. Facilitators continue to actively meet new children and youth who come into the library and to invite them to participate in their planned and/or self-directed activities. The snacks provided are enjoyed by the participants and are a nice gateway to making initial connections. Healthy snacks are key for children who may have missed meals and are one component of the program that cannot be overlooked.





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## The TD Summer Reading Club and the Summer R.E.A.D. Program

\$60,000. For the 2024 TD Summer Reading Club and Summer R.E.A.D. program, the Library plans to hire 16 summer students to help foster a love of reading in children and youth, and to use the Library as a reading bridge between one school year and the next. The program is offered in English or French and weekly reading support sessions with children are in person or online for 7 weeks in July and August. Branches participating in Summer R.E.A.D. include Beacock, Central, Cherryhill, Masonville, Stoney Creek, Crouch, East London, Jalna, Pond Mills, Byron, Sherwood, and Bostwick. In addition to hiring students for the Summer R.E.A.D. program, there are plans to hire two additional summer students to help with summer programs at Landon and Lambeth.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2024

Despite the ongoing challenges of a post-COVID world, the work of the Friends has successfully continued with energy and optimism. We are asking for your continued support by renewing your membership with the Friends of the London Public Library.

It is worth noting that, once again, our membership fees have not increased. You will be receiving a mailed membership renewal package in December that will include an addressed return envelope. We continue to offer a convenient online renewal option through our website at [www.friendslondonlibrary.ca](http://www.friendslondonlibrary.ca)

Through our newsletter, Among Friends, and occasional email, we want to keep you informed of the ongoing work of the Friends and our special events and opportunities. Your membership supports our work and comes with the following benefits:

- A 10% discount off regularly priced books at the Oxford Book Shop with a current Friends membership card.
- Friday discounts of 20% off regularly priced material at the Friends of the Library Book Store with a current Friends membership card.
- Up to 3 invitations per year to the Columbia Employee Store for the member and up to 4 guests
- An invitation to shop at the special Preview Night before our annual Fall Book Sale, available to members of Friends and book sale volunteers.
- Our newsletter, Among Friends, which keeps members informed about events, volunteer opportunities and related news.
- Attendance at programs and events planned or sponsored by the Friends.
- The opportunity to join with others to support Library services. The satisfaction of contributing to the community by supporting our London Public Library.

We thank you for your past membership and look forward to your continuing support.