

December 2024



Friends of the  
London Public Library

*Community Support For Your Library*

# Among Friends

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of the Friends' Executive, we wish you all well and thank you for your continued support and membership.

We've had a busy season with the Annual Fall Book Sale, preparations for A Book for Every Child, Speaking with Friends, and organizing the Annual Meeting among other activities.

**Annual Fall Book Sale:** Held in October, this event was a huge success, with gross revenues exceeding \$50,000. Special thanks to Don Menard and the many volunteers who went above and beyond to make it happen!

**A Book for Every Child:** Now in its 33rd year, this program distributed over 7,000 books to children in 2023, who might otherwise not receive a new book of their own.

**Annual General Meeting:** Mark your calendar for our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 6pm. Stay afterward for Jazz for the People at 7pm.

**Speaking with Friends:** We're excited to bring back this event in February during Black History Month! Partnering with London Black Heritage Council and London Public Library, this will be our first session since the pandemic lockdown.

Looking for great holiday finds? Don't forget to visit the Friends of the Library Bookstore for Christmas-themed books for all ages at great prices!

My sincere thanks to the Friends' Executive for your commitment and dedication, to the London Public Library staff for your support, to our many volunteers for giving your time and talent, and to you, our members for your ongoing support.

Please find more details about each program in this Newsletter. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us.

We hope you'll renew your membership in 2025 and continue to be part of our community of support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Carmen Sprovieri'.

Carmen Sprovieri, President

Website: [www.friendsofthelondonlibrary.ca](http://www.friendsofthelondonlibrary.ca)

Voicemail: 519-661-2448

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## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY OCTOBER BOOK SALE 2024

The annual Fall Book Sale took place from **October 18–20, 2024**, in the lower level of Centennial Hall. Organized and conducted by volunteers and members of the Friends of the London Public Library, the sale was a tremendous success, with gross revenues exceeding **\$50,000**—an increase of \$7,000 compared to the 2023 sale. Net profits will be used to enhance London Public Library programs and activities, with a special focus on developing literacy skills.

Sale coordinators extend their thanks to several key contributors. Thanks to Campbell Bros. Movers and Yale Industrial Trucks (Alta Materials) for meeting transportation needs, and London Public Library staff for their assistance with advertising and signage. And of course, thank you to the many volunteers who worked tirelessly throughout the year to sort materials, set up sale tables on October 17, and ensure tables remained full and tidy during the sale. Your dedication and hard work are deeply appreciated.

A final recognition goes to the members of the community who generously donated books and other items for the sale and the Library store. While Library withdrawals make up a significant portion of the sale materials, community donations greatly enhance the quality of the sale, as reflected in both sale and store receipts.

As we begin preparing for the 2025 Annual Book Sale, we encourage you to continue sharing your donations with us. Thank you for your support!



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## A BOOK FOR EVERY CHILD

Over 7,000 books?

Yes, over 7,000 books were distributed to children in 2023 through the London Public Library's A Book for Every Child program. These books were provided to children who might not otherwise receive a new book of their own, thanks to the support of over 50 social agencies and schools. This success was made possible by the generous donations of new books and monetary contributions from individuals and groups.

Now in its **33rd year**, this vital Library program launched its targeted campaign on **November 4** and will continue until **December 20**. During this time, five participating bookstores are offering a **20% discount** on books purchased for the program. These books are left at the stores and picked up by Friends volunteers. Thanks to the participating stores:

- **Dellelce Family Bookstore (The Book Store at Western)**
- **Chapters South London**
- **Coles Masonville Place**
- **Indigo North London**
- **Oxford Book Shop**

Financial donations are also greatly appreciated, enabling Library staff to address the growing need for multilingual and specific reading materials while taking advantage of vendor discounts.

You can donate online at [www.lpl.ca/bfec](http://www.lpl.ca/bfec), by calling **519-661-5100 x5460**, or in person at any Library location.

Thank you for helping bring the joy of reading to children in our community!





Supporting value-added Library programs



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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the London Public Library will take place on **Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 6pm** in the Stevenson & Hunt Meeting Room, at Central Library, 251 Dundas Street.

Following the meeting, enjoy Jazz for the People at 7pm in the Wolf Performance Hall—a program supported in part by The Friends of the Library.

We will announce the Friend(s) of the year at this meeting. See how to enter below.

## FRIEND OF THE YEAR - CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Do you know someone who deserves to be recognized as **Friend of the Year**? If so, please submit the name and address of your nominee(s), along with a short letter explaining why you believe that person or group, should be honoured.

Nominations must be supported by three individuals. Please include the names, signatures and addresses of all three nominators.

Send your submission(s) no later than **December 15, 2024** to:

**President, Friends of the London Public Library**  
251 Dundas St, London, ON N6A 6H9





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## SPEAKING WITH FRIENDS IN BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February is Black History Month, and the Friends of the Library are partnering with the London Black Heritage Council and the Library to present our first Speaking with Friends event since the pandemic lockdown.

The event, titled **CANCELLED** Black History: Three New Books on the Southern Ontario Experience, will feature a panel discussion of three books that explore Black history in Southwestern Ontario:

- In the Light of Dawn by Marie Carter
- Blacks in a White Place by George Emery
- A Black American Missionary in Canada by Hilary Bates Neary

Join us on **Thursday, February 20, 2025, from 6:30–8:30pm** in the Stevenson & Hunt Room at the Central Library. The discussion will be moderated by Michael F. Murphy, with an introduction by Heather Rennalls and a summation by Nassisse Solomon. **CANCELLED**

Books will be available for purchase, courtesy of Oxford Books, and a reception will follow the panel discussion.

Celebrate Black History Month by deepening your understanding of the past and present experiences of Black citizens in Southwestern Ontario.

## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK STORE REPORT

The Friends of the Library Bookstore has a wide selection of Christmas-themed children's books, adult novels, and jigsaw puzzles, many in gift-quality condition.

The bookstore is open:

- Monday, Tuesday and Saturday: 10am – 4pm
- Wednesday, Thursday and Friday: 10am – 5pm

Please note: The store will be closed December 24 and will reopen January 2, 2025.

The bookstore volunteers wish all of their customers peace and happiness over the holiday season.

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## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REPORT

As 2024 comes to a close, it's time to look ahead and renew your membership with the Friends of the London Public Library. Your membership and donations make it possible for us to continue supporting vital Library programs.

Renewal letters will be sent as soon as postal delivery resumes. In the meantime, you can renew your membership online anytime by visiting our website at [www.friendslondonlibrary.ca](http://www.friendslondonlibrary.ca) and clicking on the Membership tab.

### Stay Connected!

To ensure you receive the latest updates and benefits, it's important we have your current contact information. If your details have changed, please let us know at [membership@friendslondonlibrary.ca](mailto:membership@friendslondonlibrary.ca).

Rest assured, we will never share, trade, or sell your personal information—it will remain confidential.

### Membership Benefits

As a valued member, you'll enjoy:

- **Advanced notification** of programs and events planned or sponsored by the Friends.
- **10% discount** at Oxford Book Shop with your current membership card.
- **20% discount** at the Library Store every Friday with your current membership card.
- An **invitation to Preview Night** before our annual giant book sale in October.
- **3 to 4 exclusive invitations** annually to the Columbia Sportswear Employee Store for you and up to four guests. (A current membership card is required for entry.)
- Our newsletter, Among Friends, keeping you informed about events, volunteer opportunities, and news.
- Invitations to attend programs and events organized by the Friends.
- The satisfaction of supporting Library services and contributing to the community.

Thank you for helping us make a difference in our public Library, an essential civic resource. We deeply appreciate your ongoing support!