



FRIENDS OF THE WESTMOUNT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Spring 2008

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MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR

For those of you who were not at the Annual Meeting of The Friends, may I first extend my heartfelt thanks for your continuing support.

Your donation of \$9,500 for the library collection is indeed impressive! All the members who walk into the Library and straight to the FastReads shelves will be thanking you too. Friends donations are responsible for that entire collection. This collection has provided immense pleasure to our readers; there were 5,099 loans of those books last year.

The Friends donation will be used again to support this FastRead service. We have expanded its scope from bestsellers and books with waiting lists to include topical or timely titles, prizewinners, and catalogues from museum exhibitions. Other monies will be used to provide more electronic resources, which will be available online in the Library and from home—titles such as the World Book Encyclopedia. Staff members are also exploring the idea of providing local book clubs with book bag kits, multiple copies of a title, as well as information on the author and the book.

As reported at the Annual Meeting, we selected 10,948 new items for the Library collection in 2007. The magazine collection now stands at 321 subscriptions. The DVD collection, which was started by Friends with 100 titles in 2005, now numbers almost 1,000. In 2007, circulation was 286,473 or 39 items per member.

As well as your support for the collection, your programmes increase the visibility of the library services in the community. Last year, as well as the wonderfully eclectic Words and Music concert. The Friends hosted author Frances Itani and a performance of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol".

The Friends' book sales are highlights of a reader's year. You have made the donations

from the community available to others—a brilliant way of recycling—and the money earned goes back into the collection to buy new books and audiovisual materials for loan. It has given many a Westmount student the chance to earn their community service credits too!

All staff members count on the Friends to be advocates for Library services, telling everyone of the wealth of information and resources available here, of the friendly capable staff willing to help find what you are looking for, of the beautiful building where you can spend some time, meet like-minded people and join in the discussions. All for free. If you have ideas for extending and enhancing our library service, please drop in to discuss them with me or send an email (amoffat@westmount.org).

Let's make it our common goal this year to have every Westmount resident own a library card! We know it's the most valuable card in our wallet.



MONEY MATTERS

In fact \$9,000 does matter. This is the sum that the Friends 2007 Fall Book Sale earned for special library ventures. Treasurer David Gawley noted that since its first book sale in 2000, the Friends have donated \$74,978 to the Library. Bravo!

THE BIG SPRING SALE

Our spring sale was our most successful yet - we had a record sale of \$9,946.61. The sale was an unqualified success in all respects. There was a wonderful selection of books – thank you to all of you who gave up books you have read to be sold to other readers. When you consider that most books were priced at one or two dollars, over 4,000 books went to new home. Those of us who were selling heard, or overheard, comments such as 'It was wonderful, I'll have to be picked up, I bought so many books there is no way I can get home by bus', "This sale is always so worthwhile" or "I'm stacking the cottage with books for all my summer guests." There is always the parent trying to convince her son to take a book by reading the promotional blurb on the cover and there are children on the floor engrossed in a tale they already know. Another shopper was pleased with her cookbook with express recipes since she was getting very tired of her stirfrys.

We had a wonderful group of volunteers who helped move, sell, pace and promote – thank you all of you. A special thanks to Anne Morrillot who managed the lower areas with the French, children's and audiovisual sale materials. Much thanks too goes to Lee Taylor for rounding up the student volunteers earning their community service credits.

For the first time, Friends had a banner outside the Library and balloons on the railing – this advertising drew in the people just passing by to spend some time at the sale too. The security gate count for people coming into the Library on Saturday was 1,581 and on Sunday 1,304 people. That is a lot of people interested in what the Library has to offer – and Friends can be proud of supporting this in the community.

Carolyn O'Neill

FALL FEATURE ISSUE

Interview with our new President, Carolyn O'Neill

Profile of our Past President, John Johnston

Report on Family Day in the Park

Special Events

ANNUAL MEETING CUPCAKE RECIPE

Check out a new book in the cookbook section [125 Best CupCake Recipes](#) by Julie Hasson (Call number: 641.865 H355). Julie Hasson has another book too [125 Best Chocolate Recipes](#).

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