

30 Years of Friendship

Mike Gagel, Chairperson, Prince George Public Library Board

Paul Burry, Library Director, Prince George Public Library

Ken Repstock, Director, Friends of the Prince George Public Library



The Prince George
Public Library
www.pgpl.ca

0 - KING LIBRARY LITERACY - Thursday, September 7, 1995

The Friends of
The Prince George Public Library
*Congratulate the Nechako Branch
Library on its Grand Opening!*



The Friends of
The Prince George
Public Library



Sara Martin, 11, plays the game *Treasure Mountain* on the kids' computer at the library.

Public library treasures its special 'friends'

Where would the public library be without its Friends?

If you take a quick look around the Prince George Public Library you'll see that the Friends of the Library play an active role in enhancing library service

The Friends of the Library have donated a children's computer workstation, CD-ROM drive and educational games for the Children's Services area at the main library. To enhance the

"Where would the public library be without its Friends?"

If you take a quick look around the Prince George Public Library you'll see that the Friends of the Library play an active role in enhancing library service in our community."

Prince George Citizen
September 7, 1995

FRIENDS
OF THE PRINCE GEORGE PUBLIC
LIBRARY



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A BIT OF HISTORY



Prince George Citizen
January 18, 1995

The library is going audio with 500 books on tape — 300 more will be added later. The Friends of the Prince George Public Library raised \$20,000 to start the project. From left is library chair Martine Goddard and Friends of the Library members Ken Repstock and Mike Benny.

FOUNDING MEMBERS

Scott Barron

Tish Davidson

Erin Davis

Sandy Gudmundson

Barbara Harkins

Murray Mawhinney

Grace Morrice

Ken Repstock

Brent Robarts

Ken Urquhart



DOLLARS DONATED TO THE PRINCE GEORGE PUBLIC LIBRARY BY THE FRIENDS FROM 1990 TO 2019

- Money donated from books sales since 1990 \$144,000
- Gaming revenue (1994 – 2008) \$318,000

TOTAL - \$462,000



PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES SUPPORTED BY THE FRIENDS SINCE 1990

- **CELEBRATING READING AND LITERACY**
 - Writing contests, writers in residence, local writers series, and author readings
 - Summer reading club and youth advisory board
 - Skate for Literacy
 - Catch them in the Cradle
 - Raise a Reader t-shirts
- **COLLECTIONS**
 - Books-on-Tape and then Books-on-CD (over \$170,000)
 - Digitization of the Citizen and the Free Press (\$30,000)

PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES SUPPORTED SINCE 1990 (CONT'D)

Bill opens Gates to computers in P.G.

by PAUL STRICKLAND
Citizen staff



The Prince George Public Library officially opened a new computer lab in its main branch during ceremonies Monday afternoon, thanks in part to a donation from the world's most famous software developer.

"The new lab at the main branch makes it possible for the public library to provide free Internet training for beginners, and to increase the number of Internet work stations available daily to our patrons," Doug Edgar, library board chairman, said at the event.

More than 30 people attended the ceremonies, including Mayor Colin Kinsley and UNBC President Charles Jago.

The lab equipment is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation — yes, that Bill Gates — and the lab area is designed to increase public access to the Internet and provide the public library with a site to provide free training. It includes six work stations, software, a printer, a content server and a digital projector.

With the new laboratory in operation, the number of public Internet-access terminals on the library's second floor rises to 13 from seven previously, said Joan Jarman, the library's public relations representative.

The Friends of the Prince George Public Library

Citizen photo by Brent Braaten

Jordan Levitt, 10, test drives one of the new computers at the Internet lab at the Prince George Public Library main branch.

provided funding to build the unique Northern wood furniture and the partition that separates the lab space from the public area on the second floor at the main branch. Industry Canada's Urban Community Access Program also helped by covering some of the cost of the furniture required.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Industry Canada grants would not have been possible without the assistance of the library services branch of the B.C. Ministry of Municipal Affairs, chief librarian Edel Toner-Rogala said during the ceremonies.

The Prince George Public Library's successful partnerships with a variety of funders has resulted in a community computing project which will total \$196,000 when complete, she said.

This includes \$34,000 from Industry Canada for projects at the library's main and Nechako branches, \$40,750 from the Friends of the Public Library for public Internet furniture at both branches and the new lab furnishings at the main branch, and \$53,500 from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for computers and software at the main branch.

Designed and built by 3D Wood Designs of Prince George, the lab's partition, sound damper, computer desks, table and cabinet are made of B.C. hemlock and balsam, while the public access stations feature birch. This is the first project in northern B.C. to use Forest Stewardship Council-certified wood, Jarman said.

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Prince George Citizen
March 27, 2001



PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES SUPPORTED SINCE 1990 (CONT'D)



Darcie Smith stands in the Knowledge Garden during a downtown walking tour last month.

Library holding Knowledge Garden fundraiser

Frank PEEBLES *Citizen staff*

The public library is building a green garden where knowledge will grow, but first they need some green cash to grow their building fund.

The Friends of the Library group is holding a one-day raffle to generate a funding spark for the next phase of construction of the Knowledge Garden located outdoors between the Bob Harkins Branch building and the Civic Centre building. The tickets will be sold exclusively at Home Sweet Home grocery store (1185 Third Ave., at Dominion St.) with half the winnings going to the name drawn and the other half going to the library's Knowledge Garden project.

"We are big fans of the Prince George Public Library and their role in boosting literacy in the community. Being able to host The Friends of the Library at Home Sweet Home as part of our pop-up series is exciting for us and our customers," said Home Sweet Home Grocery co-owner, Diandra Oliver. "Also, the winnings of this fundraiser are quite motivating for a \$10 ticket."

If all tickets are sold, the winner gets \$10,000 and so does the garden fund.

"The Knowledge Garden is currently under construction at the Prince George Public Library," Oliver said. "This future reading garden and performance space... is incorporating footpaths, benches, a picnic site, a children's

garden and more – along with a small amphitheatre from which they will conduct outdoor programs like story times and host musicians and public speakers."

The Friends of the Library is the organizer of fundraising and awareness-raising events like the annual public library's book sale. Their support has obtained everything from window blinds to reading chairs, from computer stations to children's toys, from digitizing historic newspapers to visits by local authors.

The tickets will only be on sale Saturday from 10 a.m. until noon. For more information about The Friends of the Library please contact Margaret Johnson at m.johnston@telus.net.

"The Friends of the Library group is holding a one-day raffle to generate a funding spark for the next phase of construction of the Knowledge Garden located outdoors between the Bob Harkins Branch building and the Civic Centre building."

Prince George Citizen
August 15, 2014

PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES SUPPORTED SINCE (CONT'D)



HOW DO THE FRIENDS RAISE MONEY?

Spring book sale will unearth new-to-you treasures

Christine HINZMANN Citizen staff
chinemann@pgcitizen.ca

Book lovers get ready for the spring sale where hundreds of books can be bought by donation during the Friends of the Library fundraising event held April 15 to 17.

The Keith Gordon Room at the Bob Harkins branch of the Prince George Library will see about 15 tables of books divided into categories including fiction, non-fiction and children's books.

With just those three categories for hundreds of books, the event will be guaranteed to be a real page turner as about 500 readers make discoveries of hidden treasures while browsing for their favourites.

Friends of the Library accepts donations of gently-used DVDs, CDs and

books from the public as well as cast-offs from the library itself. There are usually two volunteers that will sort the books into boxes as they come into the storage unit in the basement of the library, ready to be put on display during the spring and fall book sales, said Margaret Johnston, president of the Friends of the Library, who has been a board member for about 20 years and president for the last five. There are 10 people on the board of the Friends of the Library that started in 1989.

"On Thursday we'll load all the books up and bring them into the Keith Gordon Room," said Johnston. The youth advisory board has volunteered to do the grunt work involved with bringing about 100 boxes filled with books up to the Keith Gordon room for every recent book sale and then other volunteers place

the books into the three categories, added Johnston.

The purchasing process has been simplified from counting hard covers and soft covers and doing all the math to making one donation for all the books a person would like, which has streamlined the process. It has also benefited the library because the end result has been more money raised. Each book sale in the recent past has raised between \$3,500 and \$4,000 to go towards the Prince George Public Library's wish-list items, said Johnston.

Funds raised have gone toward the Prince George Citizen's archive digitization project, the summer reading program for children, Raise A Reader geared for programs to promote literacy within the Prince George community, and the Knowledge Garden.

"We help with things that are not part of the library's regular operating budget," said Johnston. "We contribute to the little extras they like to do and we promised to contribute \$10,000 to the Knowledge Garden and we just finished that up this year."

Book donations can be made at the library.

After the event, unsold books go to Better World Books in the U.S. that pay for the shipping to their location and then the items are sold online. The library then gets a percentage of the sale price, added Johnston.

The book sale starts Friday, April 15 from 3 to 5 p.m. for Friends of the Library members to get the best selection. Annual memberships are \$5 each and can be purchased at the door of the sale on Friday so everyone is welcome. Saturday, April 16 the sale goes from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sunday, April 17 from 1 to 4 p.m.

CITIZEN PHOTO BY BRIGHT BRAATEN
Margaret Johnston, president of the Friends of the Library, shows off some of the thousands of books that will have first sale at



CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Margaret Johnston (President – First Elected President In 2007)
- Keara Zolli (Vice President And Secretary)
- Effie Apostolou (Treasurer)
- Lorna Daniel (Director)
- Lila Reynolds (Director)
- Ken Repstock (Director – Since 1990)
- Michael Petrescu (Director)
- Tyler Rai (Director)
- Edel Toner-Rogala (Director)
- Alan Idiens (Prince George Public Library Board Liaison)

IN CONCLUSION...

For 30 years, the Friends of the Prince George Public Library have supported, promoted, and worked to raise awareness of the value of the Prince George Public Library.

The Prince George Public Library Board is requesting that Council proclaim the week of February 3 to February 9, 2020 as Friends of the Prince George Public Library Week in the City of Prince George in recognition of the Friends' significant and ongoing support for this community's public library.



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QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS?



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