



## **Gabriele Schreiber "Friends of the Year Award"**

**Sponsored by Penguin Random House Canada**

**2015 Winner**

### **Society of the Friends of the Red Deer Public Library**

A relatively small contingent of energetic, dedicated volunteers (27) raises \$20,000 to \$30,000 a year. The range and innovation of fundraising activities and the varied library programs the Friends' funds support are impressive. Activities range from popular sales at the book store in the downtown library and book kiosks in two branches, along with biennial book sales, to their newest fundraiser, "Let's Talk About the Arts" speaker series, a program that has admirable objectives.

The Friends enjoys Library staff support and promotional assistance for its sales and from the Library Board, demonstrated by a letter of support from the Library Board's CEO, and the Board's willingness to develop a fundraising policy and to provide a motion of support of the Friends so that the Friends, after By-law revisions, could apply to hold a casino.

The impact of the Red Deer Friends' group on the library is significant. It provides funds for: the library's Summer Reading Program, a literacy initiative; well attended free monthly public concerts at the library; Red Deer Reads, a community book club; equipment for the library and funded unique projects such as a small library patio garden.

The Friends is involved with the community by providing Red Deer citizens with a mechanism to recycle their used books and by donating its unsold books to groups such as the local Remand Centre, hospital or First Nations.

The Society of the Friends of the Red Deer Public Library are deserving winners of the Gabriele Schreiber "Friends of the Year" Award.



## Books on the Bus

The most recent endeavour in January 2016 was to offer used books for a new city initiative titled *Books on the Bus*. This unique project aims to promote literacy by providing mini free libraries on selected city buses. Selections of adult and child soft cover books are placed in bins on the buses. Each book is labelled *Take it, Read it, Share it.*

## Friends of the Library Reading Garden

Friends provided funding for a summer patio at the Dawe Branch to read or just relax in tranquility, have some refreshing cold drinks and get a variety of herbs from their community herb garden.



The Friends manage a small book store in the downtown library with kiosks in the two community branches and hold a 3-day book sale bi-annually. Both the book store and book sales are hugely popular with the public.

## Let's Talk About the Arts Speaker Series

The Friends of the Red Deer Public Library present Let's Talk About the Arts, a lecture series on literature, music, visual and performing arts.