

## Friends Showcase: Sharing Successes and Challenges

- Michael Fay

### **Lindsay Friends**

#### Successes

- Sell book bags
- Hold author nights; \$5 per person; \$3 for Friends; don't pay authors; authors sell books
- Sponsor art project for kids - mural that hangs in the Library
- Do a mall display for Family Literacy Day at the mall
- Take part in Chesley Challenge
- Donate funds to the Library for books; donate funds for the archives

#### Challenges

- Difficulty recruiting volunteers
- Difficult to find sorters

### **Bethany**

#### Successes

- Sell books by donation
- Sell books by the bag for \$5 per bag

### **Toronto**

#### Successes

- Friends at two branches - North Branch - raise \$60,000 per year, South Branch - raise \$44,000 per year; 250 - 300 Friends members

#### Challenges

- Recognition
- Lack of volunteers; lack of members
- Volunteers need specific training

### **Ajax**

#### Successes

- Involved in advocacy

- Raised \$1 million for a new Library
- Have charitable status
- Used flyers - Why the Library was needed
- Did a door to door campaign
- Undertook a corporate campaign
- Support from the Rotary Club, etc.
- Have a donor wall

## **London**

### Successes

- Hold a 3-day book sale
- Have a book store
- Did an advocacy campaign 4 years ago
- Were told budget cuts were coming
- Response from Council - \$25,000 to be cut from Library's budget
- Friends e-mailed Council members, mayor, Board of Control and Senior staff
- Executive of Friends made follow-up phone calls
- Friends got funding reinstated
- Library has a Volunteer Coordinator
- Advocacy - write to Minister and Deputy Minister of Culture

## **Oshawa**

### Success

- Provide \$20,000 for Children's Literacy programs and \$50,000 for a Children's Library