

## **Sharing of ideas Workshop Part II**

**In our summer newsletter the first part of this west coast workshop was reports. The workshop documents are also found at <http://www.friendsoflibraries.ca/sharing-ideas.htm>**

### **Volunteer Recognition:**

As a lover of libraries, volunteering is its own reward. Altruism is surely the greatest motivator. However, it is important that the library, as well as the Friends organization, recognizes the effort of the volunteers. Recognition shouldn't have to cost a lot, after all, volunteers are raising money for the library, not a party. However, with a little ingenuity, a little recognition goes a long way.

- Annual (high) tea or potluck dinner to honour volunteers. May be put on by the Friends group or the Library
- Column in local newspaper saying thanks to volunteers
- Personal 'thank you's' to helpers at events are important
- Friends at VPL has volunteer award program: two years (leather bookmarks), three years (bookplate in new library books), five years (pins), volunteer of the year (pin), given out annually at its AGM and a special lifetime membership (scroll).

### **Raising the Profile of Friends in the Community:**

- Link on website.
- Wine and cheese event.
- Luncheon at the AGM. Used to be a dinner but time changed to suit group.
- One group uses napkins at library and Friends' events printed with Friends of the Library logo.
- Sign board in the library for posting Friends' notices.
- Plates to newborns in the community
- Kindergarten evening at Squamish.
- One Friends' group applied to Starbucks' literacy program and received \$10,000 toward the local program.
- 'Riot of Reading' event in Mission – put out bookmark
- Coverage in local newspaper.
- Decorating a Christmas tree in a local contest – theme was 'reading through the ages'.
- Display a plaque in library recognizing the Friends.
- Richmond Friends gives a portion of money raised to the Vancouver Foundation.

### **Capital Campaign**

- Large amount of money raised to spend on specific projects e.g. renovation to or building of new libraries. Campaign managed by Friends or Library Board.

### **Foundations**

- Organizations formed to raise a set amount of capital, usually a significant sum. Only the interest from the capital is used.

### **Fund Raising:**

What are the features of the perfect project for Friends groups? It is not possible to include all the factors when choosing a project, but the following should be taken into consideration:

- Does this project actually help the library? Does the library staff want us to do it?
- Does this project make sense for the available volunteers (i.e. car rally might raise funds for the VPL. But would our members be interested in such an event?)
- Would this project increase awareness of Friends/the library and/or result in new members?

Do we have volunteers ready and willing to take on this project?

### **Book Sales:**

- Important to dispose of surplus in a sensitive manner. Possible donation to third world countries, local groups such as Care Homes, Seamen's Club, or at least to recycling.
- Storage space is a big issue for book sales.
- Cloth book bag sale – at book sale, bags sell for \$15 (normally priced a \$10 and can be filled in the last hour of the sale.
- Pre Sale events – books are selected for good quality. Sold for \$2. Sign on display advertising upcoming book sale.

### **Used Books, Gift Stores and Other Ideas**

- Gift Store – some Friends groups have shelves in the library for displaying bags, cards, coffee mugs for sale. Other gift merchandise are sold by the library itself. Friends of VPL operates a gift store at the Central library.
- Home Baking Sales – usually have a pretty good return.
- Short story contest – Friends puts up the money and collects a fee from the children participating.
- Festival of the Arts
- Food for the Soul – samples
- Dessert auction
- Mystery Night Event at the library
- Xmas tree- lease to companies to decorate, draw for best
- Antique Road show – entry fee covers appraisal by expert
- Quilt raffle – check with BC Gaming Office re: licence
- Retired Employee Grant – can apply for match
- Matching Grants
- Travelling puppet show
- Book Ball at VPL – invitations are sent out inviting recipients to 'Stay at Home and Read a Book' on a particular evening and send what they would have spent to go to a ball to the Friends as a tax free donation.
- One library 'sold' library shelves – in this case money was raised toward purchasing specific hardware for the library.