

Sponsor Programming/Events

- Friends sponsor, plan, or host a variety of programs and events

Assist During Special Events

- Friends can assist the library by looking after refreshments, offering tours of the library or “meeting and greeting” at special library functions and celebrations.

Help Out With Specific Library Services

- Some Friends groups have volunteers who enjoy delivering books to individuals who can't get out to their library (homebound or outreach service).

Resources:

Dolnick, Sandy (1996). *Friends of Libraries Sourcebook*. Chicago, IL: American Library Association. (Copy available from FOCAL Lending Library)

Ferguson, Daniel (2005). *Friends of libraries resource book*. Tullamarine, Australia: Friends of Libraries Australia.

Friends of Libraries U.S.A. *Fact sheet #1 Starting a Friends group*.
(www.folusa.org/resources/pdf-versions/fact-sheet-13.pdf)

Macnaughton, D. & van Haaften, J. (2007). *How to form your friends of the library group*. Sault Ste. Marie, ON: Friends of Canadian Libraries.



Why do you need Friends?

Your library needs a Friends group because Friends can:

Advocate

- Libraries need more advocates as budgets are cut or libraries may be in danger of closing.

Increase Public Awareness of the Library

- Friends provide increased public awareness of the library at all Friends events and demonstrate visible support for library services.

Volunteer Their Time, Energy and Expertise

- Friends provide the opportunity for people who have a passion for their library to give time to benefit the library in their community.

Partner with Other Community Groups

- Friends have friends with whom they can share their enthusiasm about volunteering for the Friends and who may decide to become members as well.

Raise Funds

- Examples of successful fundraisers include: book sales, bake sales, yard sales, harvest festivals, silent auctions, film festivals, as well as capital campaigns and other major fundraising projects.



What do Friends do?

How many times have you been asked this question? The following list, taken from information provided on FOCAL membership registration forms over the past few years, should provide some answers.

Many groups listed:

- ✕ Advocacy
- ✕ Author series
- ✕ Bake & book sale
- ✕ Book sales
- ✕ Endowments/bequests
- ✕ Fundraising
- ✕ Honour-with-books
- ✕ Newsletters
- ✕ Purchase books
- ✕ Purchase magazines
- ✕ Raffle
- ✕ Seminar series
- ✕ Sponsor special events

Other individual topics include:

- ✕ Adopt-a-book (Smiths Falls, Ont.)
- ✕ Art and literary events (Georgina, Ont.)
- ✕ Artist-of-the-month show (Warton, Ont.)
- ✕ Auction (Smiths Falls, Ont.)
- ✕ Author readings (Smiths Falls, Ont.)
- ✕ Bingo (Penetang, Thunder Bay, Ont.)
- ✕ Book clubs (Lindsay, Ont.)
- ✕ Bridge lessons (Hanover, Ont.)
- ✕ Bridge tournament (Abbotsford, B.C., Hanover, Ont.)
- ✕ Business directory (Ramara, Ont.)
- ✕ Capital campaign (Ajax, Ont.; Cowichan, B.C.)
- ✕ Carpentry (Lethbridge, Alta.)
- ✕ Christmas shop (Dunnville, Ont.)
- ✕ Commemorative plate sales (Moose Jaw, Sask.)

- ✕ Corporate donations (Moose Jaw, Sask.)
- ✕ Craft demonstration (Smiths Falls, Ont.)
- ✕ Craft sales (Belleville, Ont.)
- ✕ Fall fair booth (Sunderland, Ont.)
- ✕ Forkfest (Saskatoon, Sask.)
- ✕ Foundation grants (Moose Jaw, Sask.)
- ✕ Garden tour (Penetang, Ont.)
- ✕ Home delivery services (Lindsay, Nepean, Georgina, Dundas, Cobourg, Ont.)
- ✕ Indexing (Lethbridge, Alta.)
- ✕ Jigsaw puzzle sales (Moose Jaw, Sask.)
- ✕ Lamp sales (Oshawa Ont.)
- ✕ Library history (Ex Libris)
- ✕ Library yards & gardens (Dunnville, Ont.)
- ✕ Literacy for children (Nepean, Ont.)
- ✕ Literacy program (Nepean, Ont.)
- ✕ Local author talks (Dundas, Ont.)
- ✕ Perennial plant sale (Ramara, Ont.)
- ✕ Pet parade (Abbotsford, B.C.)
- ✕ Planned giving (Kitchener, Ont.)
- ✕ Plants/book sale (Moose Jaw, Sask.)
- ✕ Publish - Memories of Elgin County (St. Thomas, Ont.)
- ✕ Reading club (Cobourg, Ont.)
- ✕ Shelf reading (Dundas, Ont.)
- ✕ Speakers' series (Canmore, B.C., Lillooet B.C., London, Ont.)
- ✕ Summer concert series (Meaford, Ont.)
- ✕ Summer reading program (Dundas, Ont.)
- ✕ Survey re: larger library (Warton, Ont.)
- ✕ Walk for Osteoporosis Society (Sunderland, Ont.)
- ✕ Welcome service (St. Mary's, Ont.)