

Friends Corner

Last year, the Friends of St Thomas Public Library were busy raising funds in support of the library, just like they have every year since they started in 1994. In 2011, they moved to Elgin Mall, and when the library reopened on Curtis Street, the Friends Shop stayed at the Mall. The Friends of St. Thomas Public Library is a charitable organization, and all proceeds support the library. Since 1994, their contribution to the library from the sale of used books, donated material, and donations total over \$200,000. In addition to the shop at the mall, the Friends have a seasonal booth at the Horton Market. For a great bargain – and to support the Library - drop by the Friends Shop at the Elgin Mall, Monday to Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., or at the Market.

- Heather Robinson, *Friends Liaison*

The George Thorman Local History Room has a new look, and continues to attract inquiries in person and by email, both from nearby and from places as far away as Texas and Colorado.



Library Board Members: 2010 - 2014

Board meetings take place every third Wednesday of the month at 4:10 p.m. from September to June.

- Greg Grondin**
Chair, Public Appointee;
- Martin van Weert**
Vice Chair, Public Appointee;
- Lori Baldwin-Sands, City Alderman**
- Wendy Crocker, Public School Representative**
- Kelly Hoogstra, Public Appointee**
- Deb Laverty, Public School Representative**
- Terry Metcalf, Public Appointee**
- Shirley Poirier, Separate School Appointee**
- Dave Warden, City Alderman**

Library Staff

- Chief Librarian/ CEO
- Rudi Denham, B. Ed. MLS,**
- Adult and E-Services Librarian
- Paul Blower, M.A. MLS**
- Youth Services and Community Development Librarian
- Heather Robinson, B.A. Honours Eng & Lit; MLIS**

Staff Retirements in 2012

After a combined total of 63 years with St. Thomas Public Library Effie Lattanzio, Customer Services Manager, and Paul Giza, Building and Systems Manager, both retired.



Greg Grondin



Rudi Denham

That's Stat-facular!

2011	2012
16,107	17,410
352,097	412,835
208,100	232,400
18,440	22,990
51,905	49,581
222	294
5,756	7,889
27	27
3	3
65.5	65.5

Library Members.....
Circulation.....
Visitors.....
Public Computer Use (Hours).....
Questions Answered.....
Program Attendance.....
Library Staff.....
Full-time equivalent Professional librarians.....
Hours Open per Week.....

Relocation to a smaller space and several weeks closure in 2011 result in statistics not being comparable to other years.



Contact Us!
Rudi Denham, Chief Librarian
 153 Curtis Street, St. Thomas, ON N5P 3Z7
 Phone: (519) 631-6050
 Fax: (519) 631-1987
 Email: stpl@st-thomas.library.on.ca
 Website: www.st-thomas.library.on.ca
 Blog: <http://stpliblog.wordpress.com>



Library Activities 2012

At the beginning of the year, we were closed for two weeks so that we could pack more than 100,000 books, a multitude of desks, chairs, and shelving, and 50 computers and their associated bits and pieces and unpack them in our familiar –but totally different - library.

We discovered that the Revitalization Project is never quite finished, and we appreciate your patience with the delays in getting our artwork up, our books shifted, the plants back from the green house, and all our technical equipment working.



The library's Teen Advisory Board continued to flourish in 2012 with 15 active members. The youth enjoyed workshops aimed at personal development and assisted with the very successful Haunted Library.

Our training sessions on the use of e-readers have been popular, and our e-book readership is growing.



One of the benefits of our new space is more opportunity for display. We can hardly keep up with the demand on our book displays, including "Staff Picks" and "Hungry for a Good Book".

A victim of our own success, both Words & Music and Trivia Night outgrew the space available at the Library, and had to move to larger spaces. For something totally new, we offered an electronic song writing workshop with a local musician and two programs with a Reiki master.

Moving back to the library meant reconnecting with many community agencies and partners and embracing the opportunity to work with them in a myriad of creative ways.

We had four drop-in clubs in 2012, a Pokemon and a Chess club run by volunteers, as well as staff-run Lego and Wii Clubs.



St. Thomas Public Library added video games to the collection, including ones for Nintendo Wii and DS, PS3 and Xbox 360.



In the Palmer Youth Library, our new "Kids' Spot" offers a wide array of activity centres all based on the five pre-literacy skills as outlined in the "Every Child Ready to Read" program.

Our three preschool programs were so busy we had to offer twice as many programs in 2012 - 100 preschool programs for 1819 young participants.

Chair's Remarks

Each year, I'm proud to provide you, our community, with an update of what the library has accomplished in the past year. 2012 was another remarkable year, as we celebrated our return to the newly renovated library – a Revitalized Library.

We re-opened on January 16th, 2012, and revealed the results of a year of hard work. We are especially proud of our bright and airy design. Our Revitalized Library offers additional service desks, and information services on each level. You can check out on the main floor service desk, use the self checkout, or sign out materials in the children's & teens area.

Many of you - more than a thousand people! - came in the door to share in the festivities on March 29th as we celebrated the official grand opening! In the weeks after we opened, an average of 931 people came in the door every day – or more than 5,000 every week!

It has been gratifying to see how customers have embraced the new space. On the main floor, the new seating areas include a bistro table and chair set near a window, comfy chairs with table trays for laptop computers, and our refinished maple tables with rolling chairs. The new Rotary Lounge with a fireplace provides a pleasant setting for leisure reading. On the upper level, the quiet study space, we provided two study rooms, which were an instant hit with the public who had longed for quiet places to work and study in pre-revitalization days.

The Children's and Teens area, now known as the Palmer Youth Library, has doubled in size, extending over the entire lower level, and is better designed to accommodate services for our customers, young, old, and in between. The Ingram Room is a flexible space for programs and small meetings, while Kid's Spot is my personal favourite – a place for playing and learning with children and grandchildren.

In March we were pleased that Michael Chan, Minister of Culture Tourism and Sport had an opportunity to visit our new library. And later in the year, we were thrilled that the Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, was able to join us on November 2nd in a reception with donors and supporters to celebrate our Revitalized Library. Mayor Heather Jackson and I welcomed Lieutenant Governor Onley and Mrs. Onley. They were joined by about thirty Library staff, donors, Board members and community partners for a reception in the George Thorman Room.

On behalf of the Board, I'd like to express our sincere thanks to the City of St. Thomas for their support, to the staff for their dedication and hard work, and, of course, to you, our customers for your patience with the move, and for embracing the changes to your library.




Greg Grondin, Board Chair

Fundraising Committee 2009 - 2012

Meet our award winning Fundraising Committee!

Terry Carroll - Honorary Chair
Community Member

Greg Grondin - Committee Chair
Community Member

Lori Baldwin-Sands
Board Member

Shirley Poirier
Board Member

Mary Lou Barnes
Community Member

Martin Van Weert
Board Member

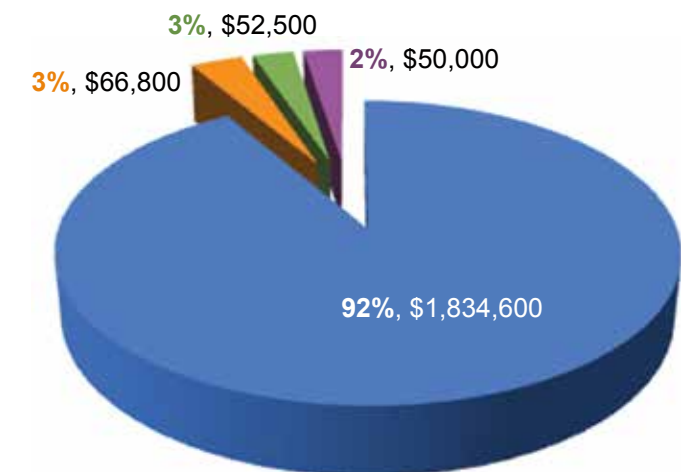
Terry Metcalf
Board Member

Betty Want
Community Member

Thank you to our donors! Donors from 2009 to 2012 for our Imagine Campaign:

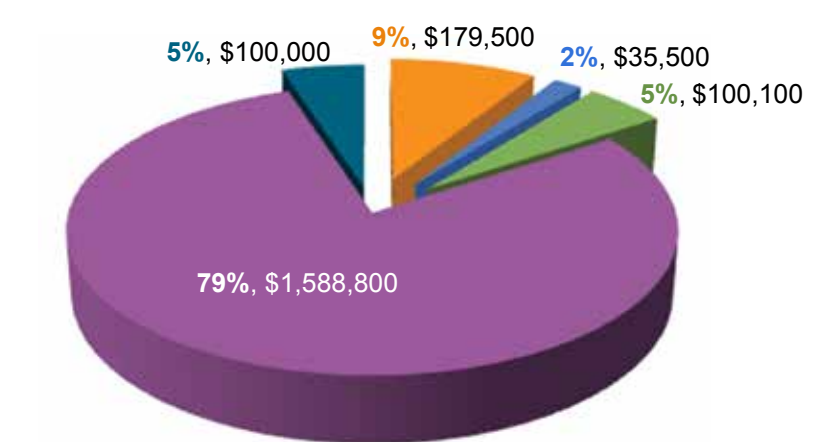
- Anonymous
- An appreciative member
- Susan and Richard Andrews
- Lori Baldwin Sands
- Gib Balkwill
- Karin Barrie, Dundee Private Investors Inc.
- Maurice and Betty Beaudry
- Dr. Hugo Bidinot
- Ted and Barbara Blewett
- Dr. Ken and Mrs. Dianne Bocking
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- Janet Grant
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- In Memory of Lewis Gloin
- In Memory of Harold Hill
- In Memory of Mina Rose and Lois Paddon
- In Memory of Peter Seifert
- In Memory of Mom, Cela Sloan
- In Memory of Mrs. Cela Sloan
- Bob and Nonie Ketchum
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- Elizabeth Sebestyen
- Geraldine Smith
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- Fay Vandenburg
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- Yurek Pharmacy Limited

Library Revenue, 2012



- City of St. Thomas
- Provincial Grants
- Room Rentals, Fines & Fees
- Development Charges

Library Expenditures, 2012



- Library Materials
- Library Computer & Databases
- Facility
- Human Resources
- Administration