Sponsors and Donors Celebrated

On October 2, 2015 the **WVML Foundation** hosted a Celebration of Sponsors and Donors. What a great night it was for all who attended! Wine and appetizers were served as attendees toured the Library and saw the enhancements that are a direct result of their generous donations. They also were treated to a sneak preview of the Library’s new strategic plan that encourages 21st Century learning, human connection and imagination. The Foundation wishes to thank senior library staff including Deb Hutchison Koep, Deputy Director; Lauren Henderson, Manager of Operations; Pat Cumming, Head of Information Services; and Shannon Ozirny, Head of the Youth Department who conducted the tours. The donors were amazed at all that the library has to offer and were impressed by the forward thinking of the staff.

For those of you who weren’t able to come that night, we have printed Margaret Rosenfeld’s welcome address, as we would like all donors to know how much their support means to us.

Good evening. I wanted to thank you all for coming tonight to celebrate your contribution to our wonderful institution. As you all know, the Library is municipally funded, but the municipality couldn’t possibly provide all the enhanced programs and spaces that make this library unique. These enhancements are a direct result of your generous donations and we wanted to take the time tonight to thank you and show you some of them.

We are especially grateful for your support because in our small community the same corporate donors and private citizens are asked to contribute to a myriad of good causes. But you have chosen the Library, perhaps because of an emotional or sentimental attachment, or because you received help from the tremendous staff, or because of altruistic reasons like we uphold free and equal access to ideas and information, and we are a great leveler in society, or because we twisted your arm. Whatever the reason, we are truly grateful, as are the people whose lives have been touched by the library. The WVML is here for our entire community from preschoolers to seniors, people with developmental disabilities, students, business people, job seekers, new Canadians and avid readers.

A little goes a very long way at the library. Of course, a lot goes even further, but unlike charities that need millions to do research to make a difference, the Library can make a difference to the quality of lives in our community with very little. For example, the Special Needs Programming costs $1,925 for 16 weeks of programming. When you imagine the smiles on the kids’ faces, it’s priceless. TED Talks Streaming costs $2,300; over 690 people came this year, that’s $3.33 a person or the proverbial coffee, but intellectually stimulating our community – priceless. Large print and talking books costs $5,000 for over 150 new titles; giving the visually challenged independence – priceless. And the list goes on and on. Your dollars really do make a difference.

In a few minutes you’re going to be going on a tour and seeing lots of other great things we’ve been able to do with your generosity. The Courtyard, right here behind me, is our most recently resurrected space. On lovely days (and some not so lovely) it is filled with people enjoying the Wi-Fi, reading, or sipping coffee and chatting with friends. It’s a great community space and with climate change, who knows, could be enjoyed year round.

At the Foundation, your donations are extremely important to us. Our volunteer board works very hard and we do not incur the costs of professional fundraisers. We do have administrative costs to ensure that the endowment is professionally managed, valid tax receipts are issued, and to ensure the privacy of our donors and donor information, but we do our upmost to keep our administration costs down – so please enjoy your Chateau du Costco! Cheers!
Audrey Kershaw
July 30, 1919 - September 7, 2014

The West Vancouver Memorial Library Foundation is the recipient of a generous bequest of $50,000 from the estate of long time West Vancouver resident, Audrey Kershaw.

Mrs. Kershaw was born and raised in Vancouver. After graduating from Normal School, she spent nine years teaching primary school; first at Copper Mountain and then in Vancouver. In the fall of 1947, Mrs. Kershaw was planning to go to England as an exchange teacher when a chance meeting with Ernie Kershaw at the Vancouver Lawn Tennis Club changed her travel plans to wedding bells. After their marriage, the couple started their lives together in North Vancouver before moving permanently to West Vancouver in 1959.

And so began Mrs. Kershaw’s long patronage of the West Vancouver Memorial Library. She received her first library card soon after the Library was completed in 1950 and became an annual donor when the Library Foundation was formed in 1986.

Mrs. Kershaw was a voracious reader whose interests included history, biography, historical fiction, and Canadian writers such as Margaret Lawrence and Carol Shields. She read anything as long as it fit her one stipulation – it had to be by a good writer. Not even macular degeneration could slow her down; thanks to the Library’s large collection of talking books she was able to keep up with all the latest authors.

Mrs. Kershaw was also a favourite among many library staff. Kelly Bailey, Home Library Services, always looked forward to another batch of books going out to Mrs. Kershaw as the two had great discussions about the current reads.

The Library Foundation is very grateful for this generous bequest that will benefit all patrons of the Library.

Throughout the year, the Foundation sponsors terrific events at the Library. For up-to-date information please see the full calendar on the website: westvanlibrary.ca/events/calendar.

Looking forward to seeing you!

Festive Music in the Main Hall Classical and contemporary music of the season performed by Jerri Mercer
2:00 pm December 15, 16, and 18, 2015

Friday Night Concert Series
Locarno January 29, 2016 | Vancouver Opera Young Artists Program March 18, 2016 | Paul Pigat April 22, 2016

TED2016 Live Streaming 2016 Theme: DREAM!
February 15–19, 2016

Booktopia West Vancouver Children’s Literature Festival
May 2016 Schedule TBA

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An Evening with Ann-Marie MacDonald

Bring together a storyteller of undisputed brilliance, in a setting of charming elegance, with a menu that is nothing short of legendary, and you have an unforgettable evening. That was the experience that awaited 150 attendees on Thursday, November 19, when the West Vancouver Memorial Library Foundation welcomed Ann-Marie MacDonald for their annual fundraising event.

The evening began with a reception where 13-year-old prodigy Augustin Wright astounded and delighted guests with his piano and cello playing. Ann-Marie mingled with guests, signed books and answered countless questions.

Ann-Marie MacDonald is not only a highly regarded Canadian author, but is also an actor, playwright and CBC broadcaster. Her accomplishments are many. To list a few, both her first and second novels, *Fall on Your Knees*, (1996) and *The Way the Crow Flies*, (2003) were international best sellers, and short-listed for the prestigious Giller Prize. Similarly her first solo-authored play, *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)* was honoured with the Chalmers Award, the Governor General's Award, and the Canadian Authors' Association Award.

Ann-Marie is currently the first Mordecai Richler Writer in Residence at Concordia University in Montreal. Richler's personal library and effects surround her and from there she sends both informative and amusing digital dispatches. We were entertained by Dispatch 2 entitled *Generation Tough*. There was Ann-Marie juggling Mordecai Richler's typewriter on stacks of books, confessing she “would not last an ergonomic second” if she had to produce her books on a typewriter. Says she, “I am a postwar, baby boom, fragile writer where everything has to be ergonomically correct.”

We were also treated to two readings from *Adult Onset*, described as a “masterpiece” in an October 03, 2014 *Globe and Mail* book review. It is an intimate and compelling novel, acknowledged by Ann-Marie to draw heavily from personal experiences.

Ann-Marie divulged that she is passionate about libraries and about reading—a passion clearly shared by everyone in the room. The West Vancouver Memorial Library Foundation's Third Annual Preeminent Authors Dinner was a remarkable evening, and the money raised will help cement our library's position as a place of excellence for many years to come.

Thank you to all
our generous sponsors,
attendees and volunteers who made this special night possible.
Thank you to our donors

NOVEMBER 2014 - OCTOBER 2015

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West Vancouver Community Foundation

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