

# NOTES



The Newsletter of the Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library

Winter 2015

Help make our libraries the best they can be

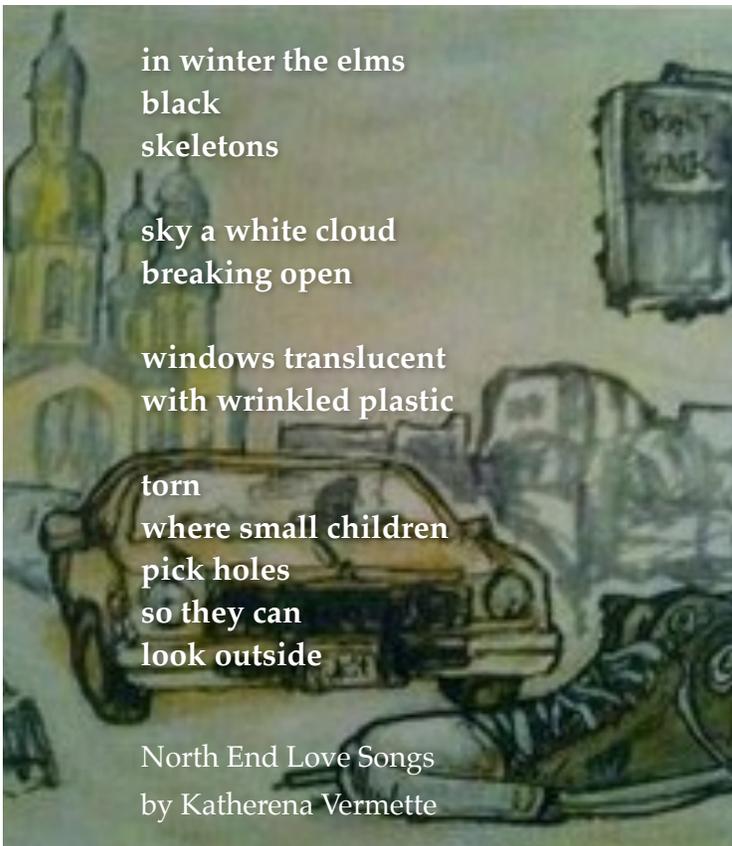
## Dear Friends:

One of my New Year's resolutions is to read more poetry. This is putting me in good company since the book chosen by Manitobans to be the one to read in 2015 is *North End Love Songs* by **Katherena Vermette**, a Governor General literary award winner. *On the Same Page* is a Public Library project enthusiastically supported by the Friends. We purchase copies of the book so that it can be freely distributed because we think being on the same page is a great way to be.

I'm excited that later this year the history of the Winnipeg Public Library will be published! Researcher and author **Eve Dutton** has been working hard to bring together facts and pictures that span the decades. But she says *"I've also been collecting stories from staff and patrons, because I want this to be our book about our library"*. Write-on Eve! Can't wait to see the book.

*Thank you for being a friend of the Winnipeg Public Library.*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS  
FOR THE 10TH ANNUAL  
BOOKS & BRUNCH



in winter the elms  
black  
skeletons

sky a white cloud  
breaking open

windows translucent  
with wrinkled plastic

torn  
where small children  
pick holes  
so they can  
look outside

North End Love Songs  
by Katherena Vermette

## From the President Billie Stewart



It's time to make sure the 2015 Books & Brunch is in your calendars. We are so pleased to have Al Rae and Charlene Diehl joining us for Books I Have Known and Loved. What an interesting and talented pair! We've had our eye on Charlene for B&B for some time; who better to talk about books than the director of the Winnipeg International Writers Festival, a published author, editor and former English prof. And we all knew Al as a comedian and director of the Winnipeg Comedy Festival, but then we ran into him doing some serious shopping at our book sale. Next we noted he is teaching a course called Wrestling Ulysses this spring in the McNally Robinson Community Classroom. Obviously he too belongs at Books & Brunch. And, as it's the 10th Annual Books & Brunch, we might even have cake....

.....Continued on page 2



[www.friendswpl.ca](http://www.friendswpl.ca)

Coming soon to a web browser near you: a brand spanking new, stand-alone Friends' website. Find us soon at [www.friendswpl.ca](http://www.friendswpl.ca) and let us know what you think!

## Friends helping Friends

*Kathy Blight, Chair, Membership Committee*

The membership committee continues to reach out by having information tables at various events. At these we always have a free draw. I'm pleased to announce that **Jolie Lesperance** was the lucky winner at the Wolseley Farmers' Market; and at the SAGE conference the winner was **Lisa Beaudin**. We also had draws at our own book sale and the 9th anniversary of our Best of Friends Gift Shop. The winners there were **Janis Watson** and **Louise Despins**.

Congratulations to all four. I hope that you have enjoyed your prizes, including the complimentary membership to Friends.

Jane was one of our best customers at the Fall Book Sale. But she just couldn't wait to get home to read so Friends' volunteer Dianne Logan obliged.....

### FROM THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

We hope lots of our members attended the Friends' 10<sup>th</sup> annual **Fall Book Sale** in October. The room looked wonderful and the books even more so. We get such a great variety of good books of every kind donated every year and it doesn't seem to be letting up. The volunteers (mostly members of Friends) did their usual great work, probably because they all enjoy the sale so much. And the best part is a good 10% increase in revenue to over **\$12,000!** This Friends fundraiser is well worth nurturing.

**Many Thanks** to our friends in the Book Sale neighbourhood, for their generous donations that helped feed our volunteers!

**BOSTON PIZZA** 1160 Taylor Avenue. Donnie Paille

**McDONALD'S** 425 Nathaniel Street. Hirem Shah, Doug Vanderelst

**SOBEY'S** 1150 Taylor Avenue. Eric McIntosh, Lila Anderson

**SUBWAY** 1180 Taylor Avenue Michael Kowalson

The brand new Charleswood Branch library is opening soon, and inside will be another **Children's Literacy Playground**, one of our favourite projects. This playground is being supported by funds from the Friends Library Project Support Budget, plus a special donation. Lawrence Cohen made a generous donation to the Friends of the Library to honour Reesa Cohen's eight years on the FWPL Board. Reesa's background as an educator supporting children's literacy makes the playground a perfect match. Watch for news of the Charleswood grand opening later this month.



## FRIENDS DAY BOOK CLUB

.....meets on the 2nd floor of the Millennium Library at 10:15 on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Here are the books for this winter:

- January 20: *Indian Horse*. Richard Wagamese
- February 17: *No Great Mischief*. Alistair Macleod
- March 17: *Bread and Butter*. Michelle Wilgen

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE PHONE (204) 488-3217

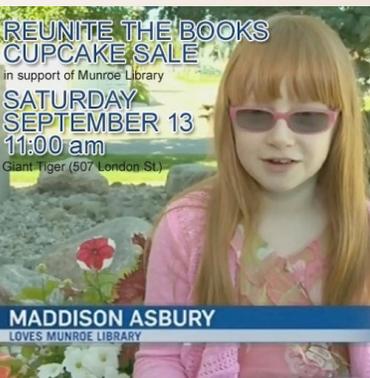
# Fabulous young Friend raises \$900 for Library branch

When 9 year-old **Maddison Asbury**, Fabulous Friend and frequent user of Munroe Library, learned from her teacher that books had been destroyed on September 4 in a \$20,000 fire in the Library's book return chute, she was devastated and asked "What can we do?"

When she and her mother next passed the library in the Munroe Shopping Centre, Maddison told her mother that she wanted to have a bake sale to raise funds to replace some of the books.

First, the family received permission from Giant Tiger, also in the Munroe Shopping Centre, to hold a **REUNITE THE BOOKS** bake sale outside the store on Saturday, September 13. Then, with her minister's permission, Maddison spoke to her church congregation to ask if they would provide baking for the sale. They readily responded, subsequently dropping off baking at her home.

Meanwhile Maddison's mother emailed CKY TV, which shared the information with affiliated 103.1 Virgin Radio. In addition to CTV's news stories, The Ace Burpee Show highlighted the event, following which a representative of the Gateway Superstore contacted the station to ask that the family contact them. Store staff then gave Maddison a card to take to the Bakery counter to select whatever she wanted.



Maddison had designed and uploaded to twitter a poster that Ace Burpee subsequently retweeted.

On the day of the sale, with the bonus of good weather, the family carried a nine-foot table to Giant Tiger, along with the baked goods. The store provided a second table and also donated \$300, which when combined with the \$600 raised at the sale, was taken immediately to Munroe Library Branch Head Randy Plant to Reunite the Books!

To recognize Maddison's stellar initiative, the Friends of Winnipeg Public Library awarded her a **Fabulous Friend** pin resembling a medal (see top photo) and a complimentary family membership to the Friends.

**Footnote:** This is not Maddison's first such venture. Last winter she collected gently used hats, scarves and mitts and attached them, with signs saying "If you're cold, please take me", to trees in the neighbourhood. And before that, she raised money for survivors of Philippine Typhoon Haiyan. Maddison's 12 year-old brother Corey has embarked on similar pursuits. The siblings have always been "encouraged to give back", their mother says.

*Thank you to Heather Graham for bringing us this wonderful story and thank you Maddison for being a truly fabulous friend of our libraries!.*



**"Volunteers are not paid because they are worthless, but because they are priceless"**

(Sherry Anderson)

FWPL is very fortunate to experience on-going success due to the work of our priceless volunteers who contribute their time and expertise! We are a small, vibrant organization with a very strong group of volunteers, experienced and new, who jump in and help wherever needed.

Thank you to all our wonderful book sale volunteers! Through their efforts, our fall book sale was an exciting success and we will continue to fulfill our mission to raise funds to support many valuable library projects.

- Lori Blande ★ Kathy & Bob Blight ★ Tyler & Julie Blight ★ Pamela & Warren Bowles ★ Matthew Carriere ★ Ed Cuddy & Deco Lea-Cuddy ★ Wade Cudmore ★ Heather Emberley ★ Marlene Enns ★ Lucille Eustache ★ Sylvia Flam ★ Susan Fraser ★ Jillian Glover ★ Heather Graham ★ Trudy Hansford ★ Luba Harasym ★ Dennis Hudspith ★ Terra Jentsch ★ Fern & Bruce Kettner ★ Brenda & Don Krueger ★ Marvyn Lick ★ Dianne & Laurie Logan ★ Marlene & Don Milne ★ Samantha Mitchell ★ Loraine Napora ★ Carolyn Rickey ★ Susan Robinson ★ Pat & Bill Stanton ★ Billie & Bill Stewart ★ Phyllis Toews ★ Robert Wilson



FWPL has many entry slips with email addresses that need to be entered and organized into a contact list. These slips are from the gift basket draws at the book sale and gift shop anniversary. If you have Excel computer skills and some time to devote to this task, please contact me at [info@friendswpl.ca](mailto:info@friendswpl.ca)



Janet Carriere  
Volunteer Coordinator

# My Library is...the Cornish Branch

My branch - the Cornish - is a gem of a library! Like St. John's, Cornish is a Carnegie library and is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Legions of us are eternally grateful to Andrew Carnegie for his vision and generous philanthropy which resulted in three libraries for Winnipeg and a library system that offers free access to reading material for everyone.

Construction of the Library began in late October of 1914 in Cornish Park, a parcel of land on the north side of the Assiniboine River near the Misericordia Hospital. The date on the front of the building is 1914, but the building was officially opened June 15, 1915. Cornish's welcome begins with its park setting: trees, shrubs, flowers, a picnic table in front and in the back as well as a bench. One of the library service assistants, Margaret Brook, plants the flowers and recently developed a vegetable garden in the back.

Part of the pleasure for me of going to the library is the fifteen minute walk along the crescent and over the bridge. Then there's the good feeling I have depositing compost in the bins

behind the library. Thank you Margaret Brook, for setting them up!

While I have been a patron of Cornish only during my adult and senior years, I have friends for whom Cornish was an integral part of childhood. One recalls weekly jaunts to stock up on books and being so disappointed when the 1950 flood impeded access to the library.



For more historical information I would recommend *Leafing Through Our History, a history of the Cornish Library 1915 - 2005* by Patricia Thomson. It was published by the Friends of the Cornish Library and is available to borrow or to purchase.

This gem of a library serves Armstrong's Point, Wolseley, West Broadway, Crescentwood and north River Heights. Now, at a hundred years old, access to the library will be finally improved with the installation of an elevator making it truly a facility for everyone.

*Adeline Sokulski is a retired teacher who loves living within walking distance of the Cornish Branch.*

## Susan Says

Notes from the Best of Friends Gift Shop  
Conveniently located in the Millennium Library

It's a brand new year and we are bursting with plans and ideas at Best of Friends Gift Shop. Here's a sneak peek at just one of them. We are totally in love with the *emptyful* sculpture in Library Park - it's so beautiful. Then the brainwave... how about jewellery using the design! So guess what? Bill Pechet, the artist, and Tricia Wasney, the jewellery genius, have collaborated and... ta da, we have pendants and earrings. Silver, simple, sleek - perfect. Now we are totally in love with *them*. Stop in soon - it's always an adventure!



*'til next time, Susan Fraser, Manager*

## Board of Directors

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- Dianne Zuk — Vice-President
- Arthur Cohen — Treasurer
- Heather Graham — Secretary
- Susan Fraser — Chair, BOF Gift Shop
- Kathy Blight — Chair, Membership Committee
- Billie Stewart — Chair, Fall Book Sale
- Jillian Glover — Communications
- Janet Carriere — Volunteer Coordinator
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- Best of Friends Gift Shop Manager — Susan Fraser
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